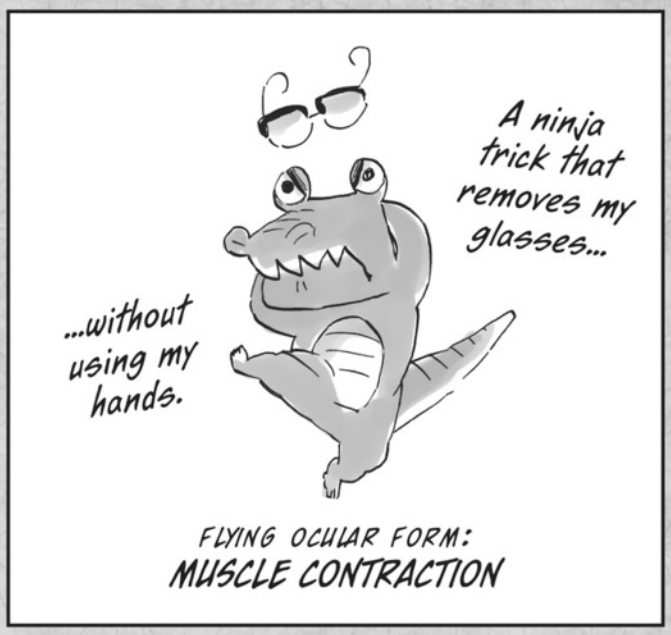
20
DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE



KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

Hi, I'm Gotouge. Lately, I've been eating a lot of Chinese onions. What have you been eating? Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the continuous support through letters and gifts. I apologize for not responding to any of them yet. Please wait a little longer for my response to each and every one of you. (*Tears*) I want to say "Baby potter anzun," almond. Keep moving forward, baby potter anzun. I'll work hard!

DEMON SLAYER:
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
VOLUME 20
Shonen Jump Edition

Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA is rated T for Teen and recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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DEMON SLAYER

KIMETSU NO YAIBA

20

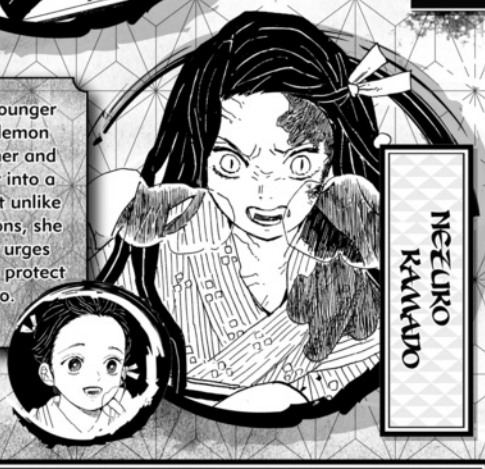
THE PATH OF OPENING A STEADFAST HEART

KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

CHARACTERS

TANJIRO KAMADO

A kind boy who saved his sister and now aims to avenge his family. He can smell the scent of demons and an opponent's weakness.



NEZUKO KAMADO

Tanjiro's younger sister. A demon attacked her and turned her into a demon. But unlike other demons, she fights her urges and tries to protect Tanjiro.

GENYA SHINAZUGAWA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. His elder brother is Sanemi, the Wind Hashira. He gains demonic strength by eating demon flesh.

INOSUKE HASHIBIRA

He also went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He wears the pelt of a wild boar and is very belligerent.

ZENITSU AGATSUMA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He's usually cowardly, but when he falls asleep, his true power comes out.

MUICHIRO TOKITO

Mist Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. The descendant of users of Sun Breathing, the first breathing technique.

SANEMI SHINAZUGAWA

Wind Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. He has a harsh attitude toward his younger brother Genya.

GYOMEI HIMEJIMA

Stone Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. He is always holding a rosary and reciting Buddhist prayers.

MUZAN KIBUTSUJI

Kibutsuji turned Nezuko into a demon. He is Tanjiro's enemy and hides his nature in order to live among human beings.

KOKUSHIBO: UPPER RANK 1

He carries a katana and is a demon, but uses the Moon Breathing sword technique.

STORY

In Taisho-era Japan, young Tanjiro makes a living selling charcoal. One day, demons kill his family and turn his younger sister Nezuko into a demon. Tanjiro and Nezuko set out to find a way to return Nezuko to human form and defeat Kibutsuji, the demon who killed their family!

After joining the Demon Slayer Corps, Tanjiro meets Tamayo and Yushiro—demons who oppose Kibutsuji—who provide a clue to how Nezuko may be turned back into a human.

Nezuko finally manifests the ability to withstand sunlight, so Kibutsuji comes for her and attacks Ubuyashiki Mansion. The Demon Slayers plunge into Infinity Castle and defeat the Upper Rank 2 and 3 demons—but not without losses of their own. Then Himejima and Shinazugawa, the Wind and Stone Hashiras, clash with the Upper Rank 1 demon, and his strength overwhelms them!!

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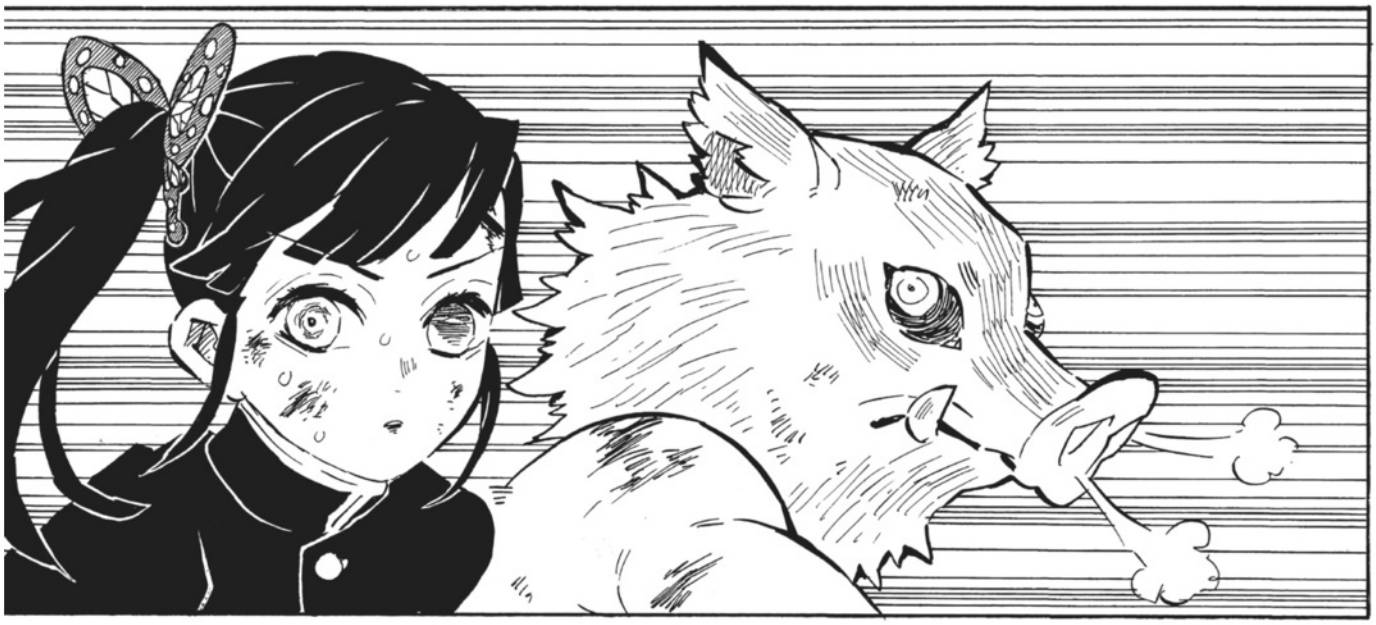
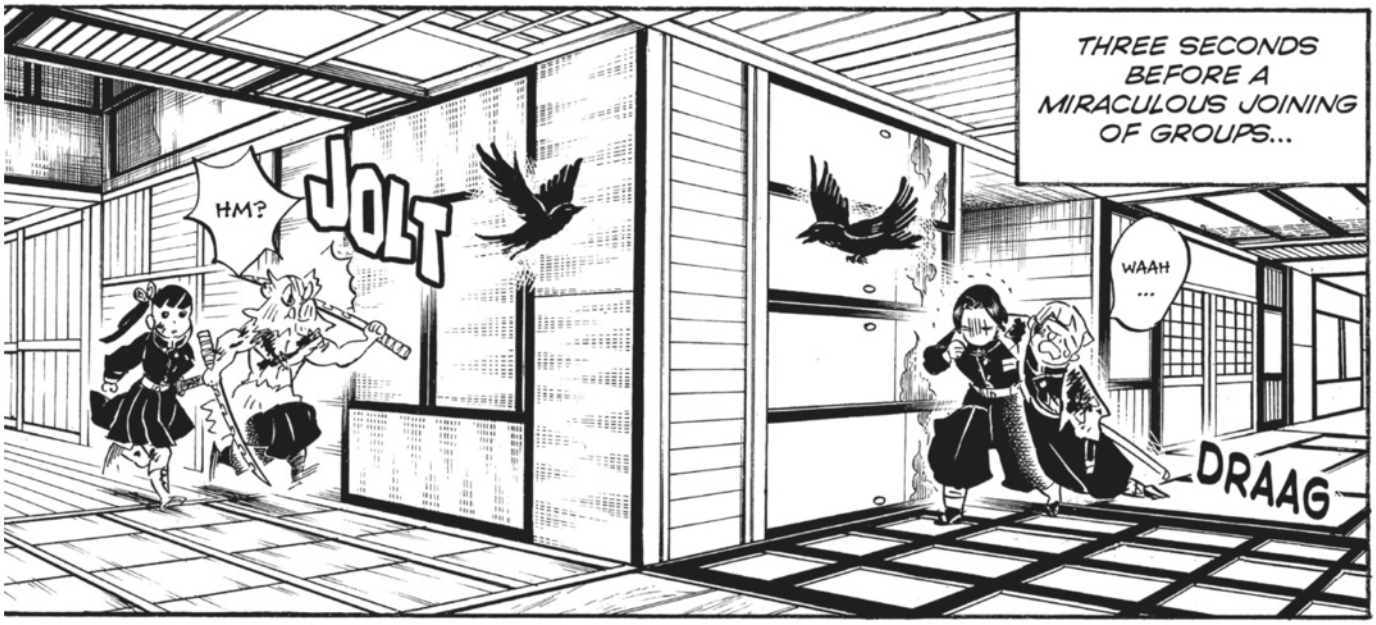
DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA

20

THE PATH OF OPENING A STEADFAST HEART

CHAPTER 170: THE IMMOVABLE HASHIRA

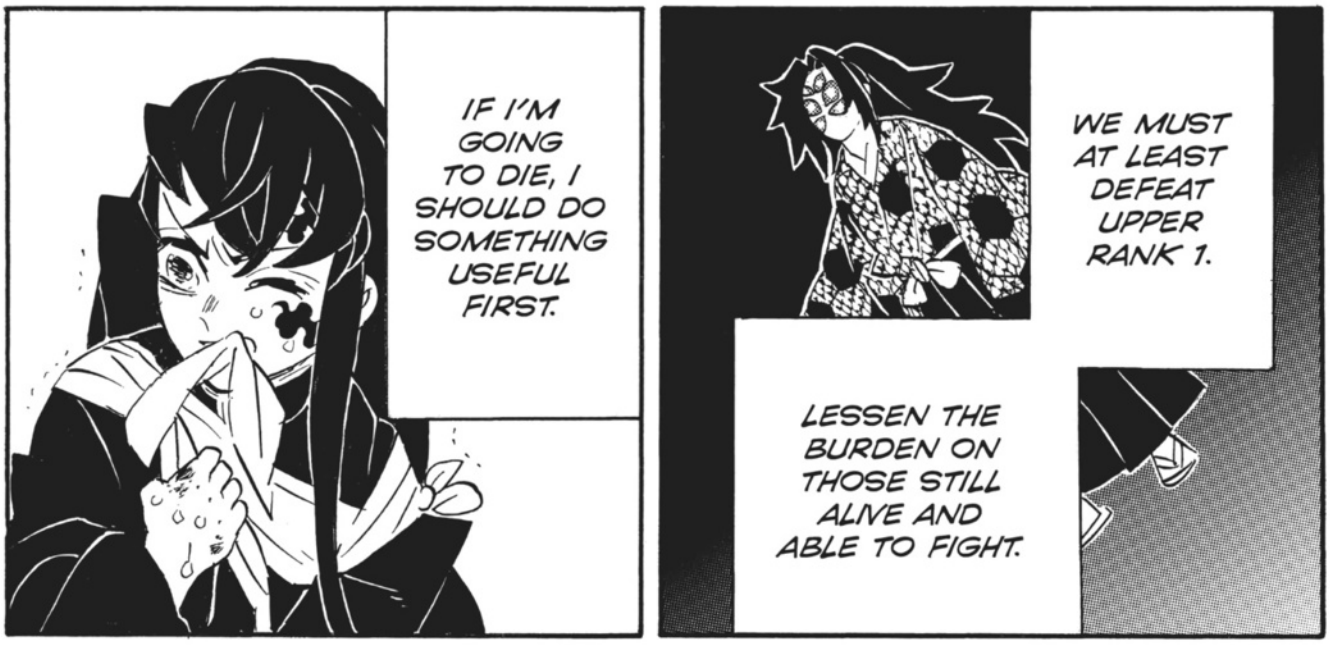


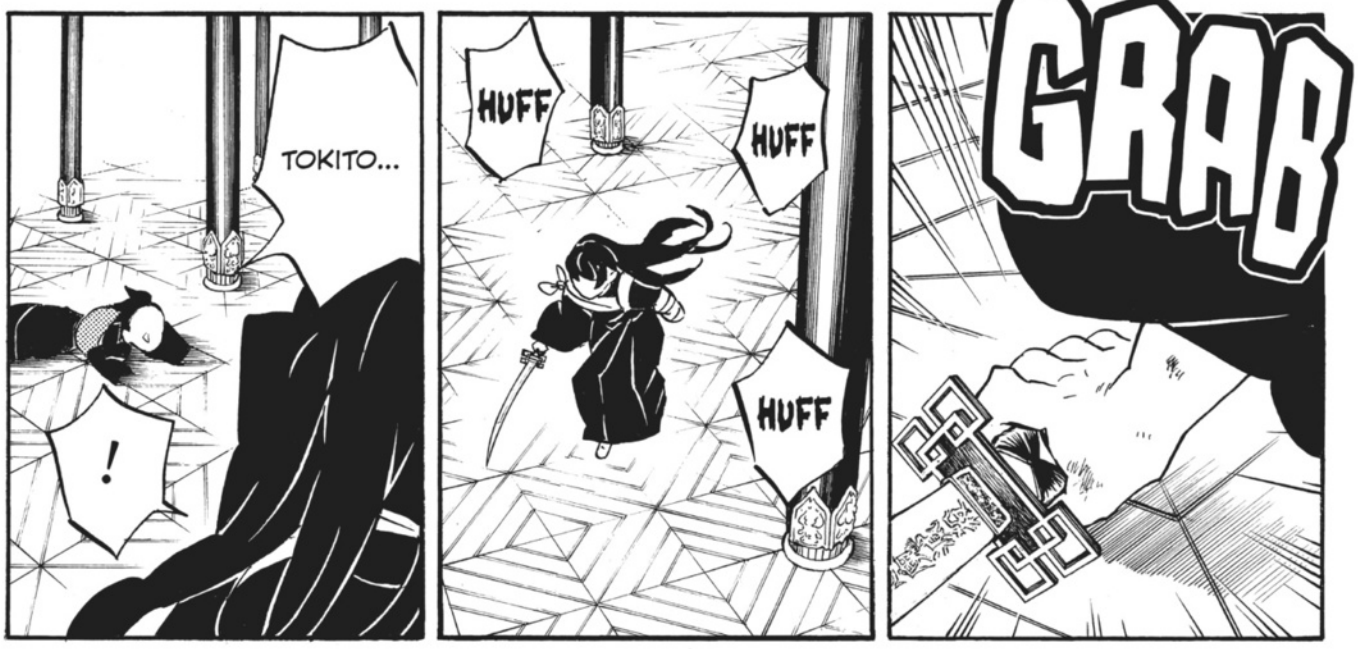


ARGH
NNGH
SHUK
HNGH
HMPH
HRGH
HUFF
HUFF
THUD
GRIP

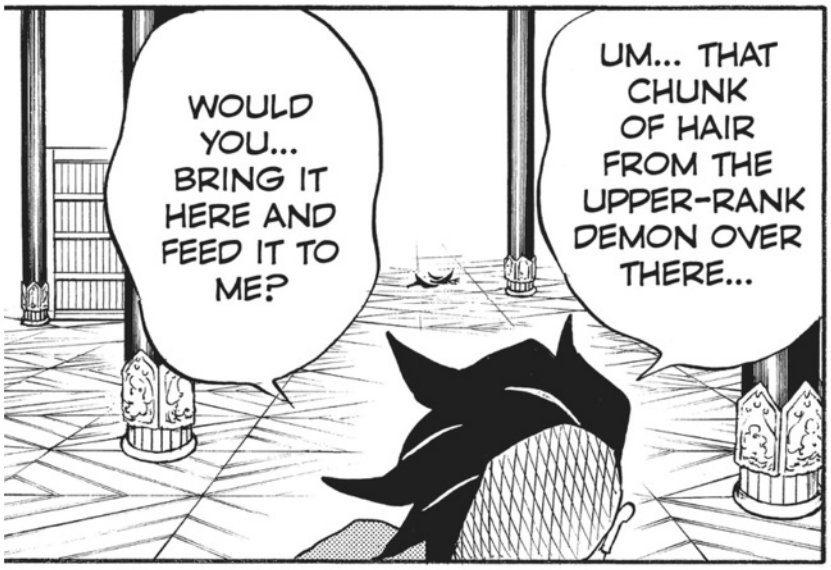
SHUNK
GRIP
HUFF
HUFF
...
KLAK

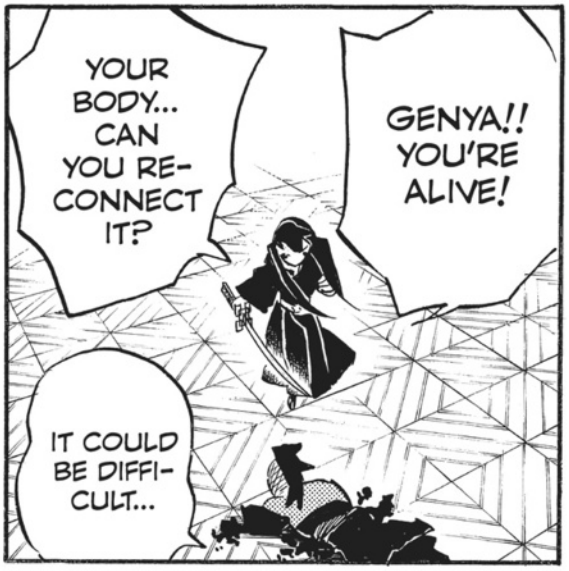
HUFF
THIS IS BAD.
I'M NO USE WITH AN INJURY LIKE THIS.
HUFF
I'M NOT BLESSED WITH A PHYSIQUE LIKE UZUI'S, SO I'LL DIE OF BLOOD LOSS IN A FEW HOURS.
HUFF


IF I'M GOING TO DIE, I SHOULD DO SOMETHING USEFUL FIRST.
WE MUST AT LEAST DEFEAT UPPER RANK 1.
LESSEN THE BURDEN ON THOSE STILL ALIVE AND ABLE TO FIGHT.


TOKITO...
!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GRAB

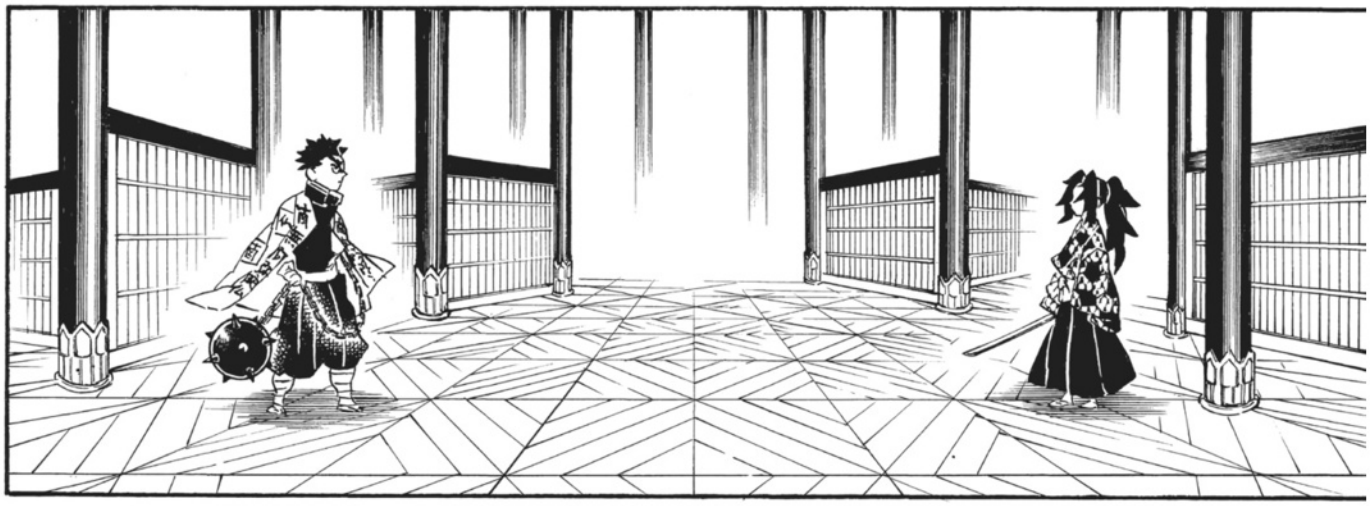
I'M SORRY, BUT...
COULD YOU PUSH MY BODY BACK TOGETHER?

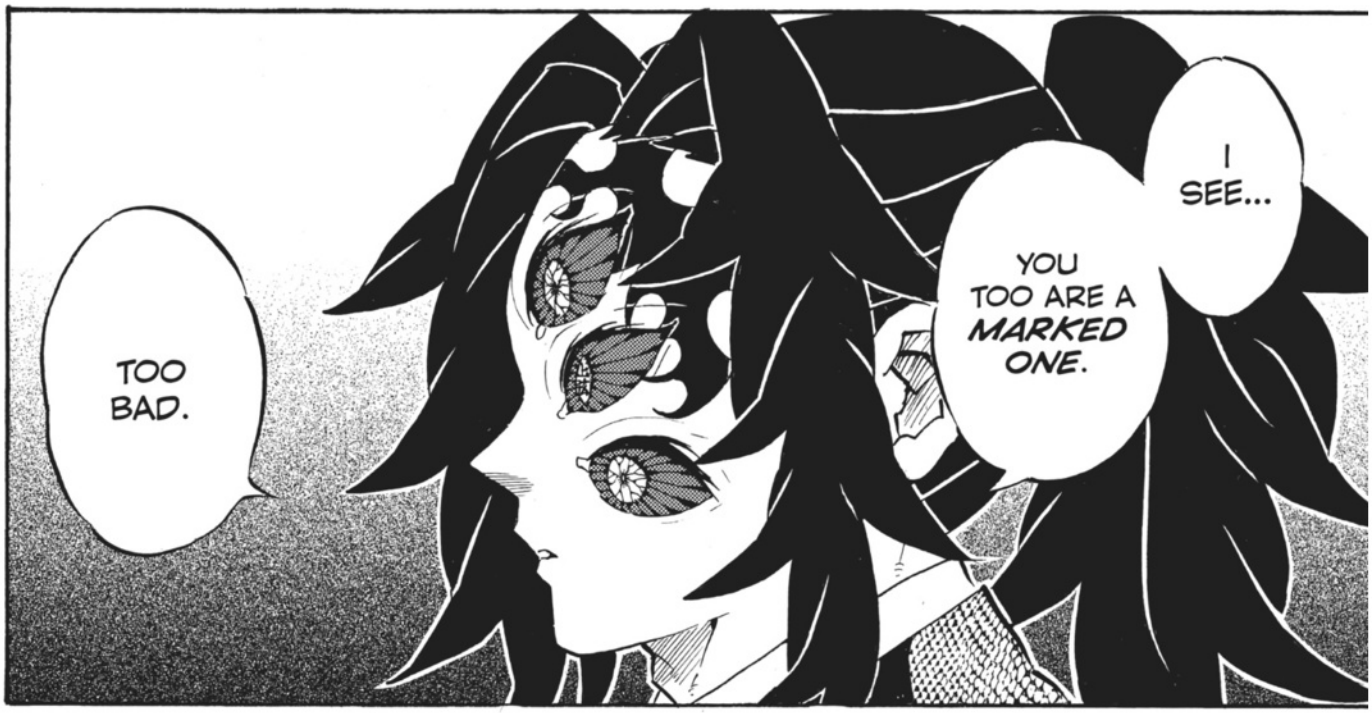

UM... THAT CHUNK OF HAIR FROM THE UPPER-RANK DEMON OVER THERE...
WOULD YOU... BRING IT HERE AND FEED IT TO ME?

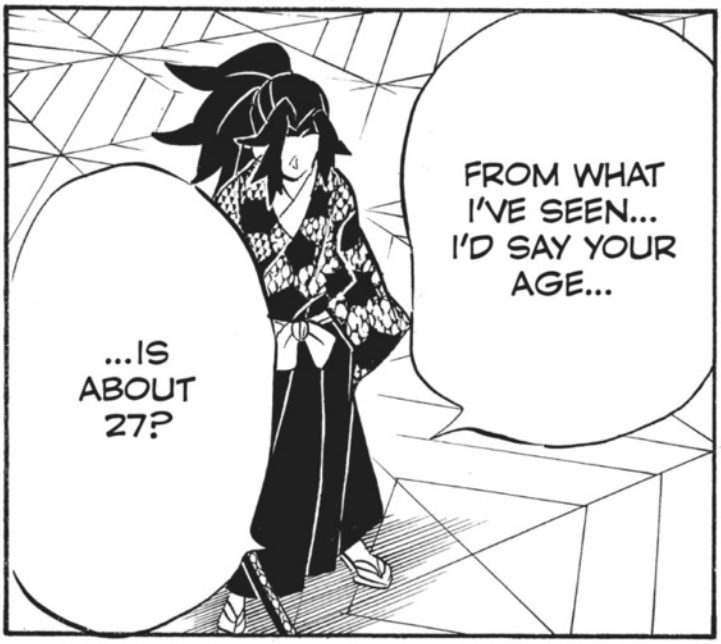

GENYA!! YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOUR BODY... CAN YOU RE-CONNECT IT?
IT COULD BE DIFFI-CULT...

...
UNDER-STOOD.
LET'S FIGHT TOGETHER UNTIL THE END.

I WANT TO FIGHT...TO THE END.
I WILL... PROTECT MY BROTHER. I WON'T LET HIM TO DIE...




I SEE...
YOU TOO ARE A *MARKED ONE*.
TOO BAD.


FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN... I'D SAY YOUR AGE...
...IS ABOUT 27?

KLINK
TOO BAD?

I REGRET THE LOSS.
WHAT OF IT?

*EYES: UPPER 1

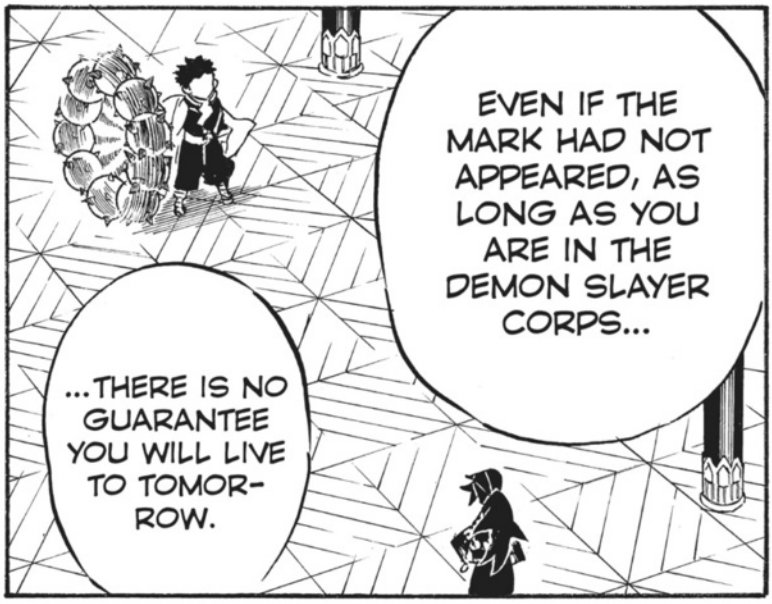
WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE MARKED ONES...
...DIE BEFORE THEY REACH THE AGE OF 25.

GWSH
EVEN IF THEY MANIFEST THE MARK...
...AND ARE ABLE TO IMPROVE THEIR POWER...
GWSH
...IT MERELY REDUCES THEIR LIFE SPAN.

YOU SHOWED THE MARK...
...AND ARE PAST 25...
...
...SO YOU WILL PROBABLY DIE TONIGHT.

YOUR BODY AND THE TECHNIQUES YOU HAVE DEVELOPED TO THEIR UTMOST ABILITY...
...WILL DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD. DO YOU NOT THINK THAT IS LAMENTABLE?

THE MARKED ONES ALREADY UNDERSTAND THAT.
NO, I DON'T.


EVEN IF THE MARK HAD NOT APPEARED, AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS...
...THERE IS NO GUARANTEE YOU WILL LIVE TO TOMOR-ROW.

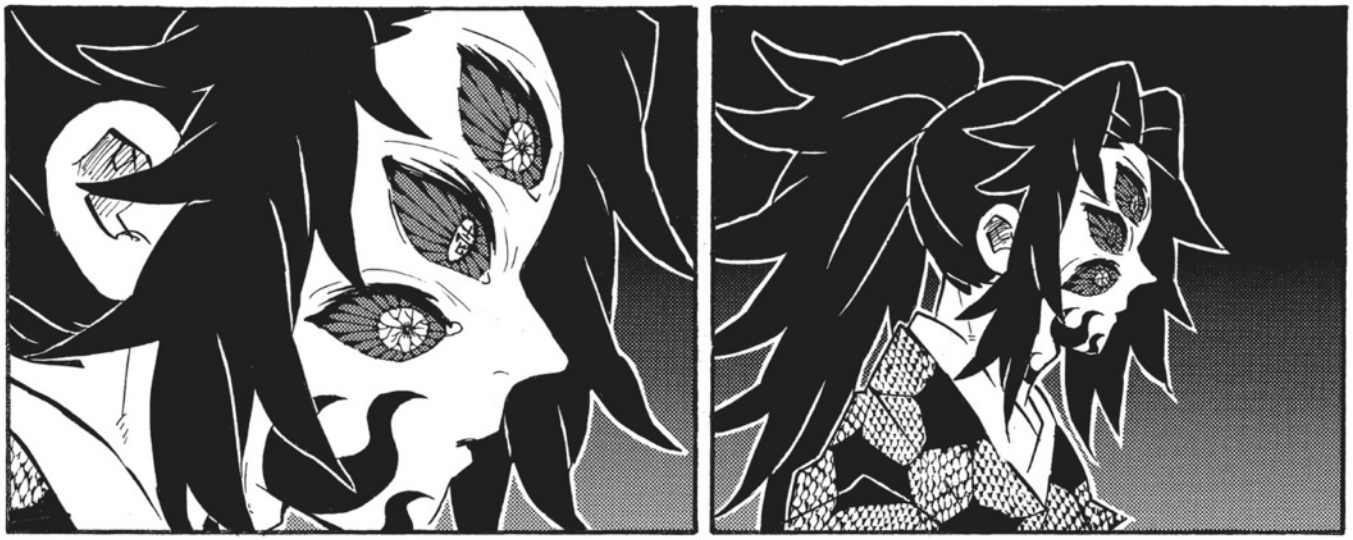
SO YOU KNEW?

NO ONE BECOMES A HASHIRA WITH SUCH HALF-HEARTED DETERMINATION.
WHY WOULD I CLING TO LIFE AT THIS POINT?

WE SHOULD NOT BE TALKING ABOUT TRIVIAL THINGS LIKE LIFE AND WHATNOT.
...MAKES ME BOIL WITH ANGER.
THAT HORRIBLE INSULT...
WHY DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT? HOW FOOLISH...
IF YOU BECOME A DEMON, YOU CAN PRESERVE YOUR BODY AND MAINTAIN YOUR TECHNIQUES.
WE ARE PROUD TO LIVE AND DIE AS HUMAN BEINGS.
I DON'T NEED TO UNDER-STAND IT.

GWSH
GWSH
DON'T ACT LIKE YOUR WORTHLESS IDEAS ARE SUPERIOR AND FORCE THEM ON OTHERS.
OH...
WSH
YOU STATED ONE FALSE-HOOD.
I NOTICED SOMETHING WHILE WE WERE TALKING.
WSH
I HAVE TOLD NO LIE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HEH...

I SUSPECT THERE *WAS* AN EXCEPTION.
THERE WAS ONE WHO HAD THE MARK, LIVED PAST 25 AND IS STILL ALIVE.



THAT SHOOK YOU.
IT APPEARS MY GUESS WAS CORRECT...

NO?
南無
KLANG
阿
仏
弥
陀
阿
無
弥
仏

KAKASHI

HUFFF
HUFFF
HSHHH
FWOOO FWOO

FW

KAHAN

THIS MAN ALSO HAS THE MARK.
ARE ALMOST ALL HASHIRA IN THIS TIME MARKED ONES?

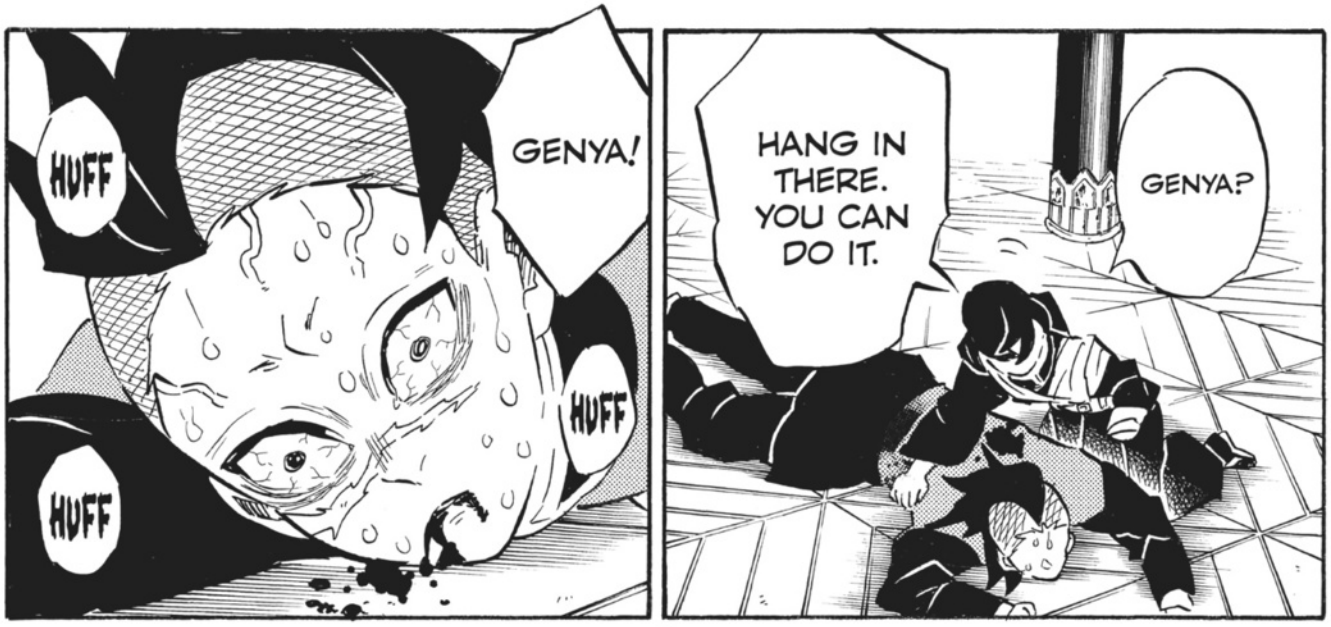
WHIP
HE DODGED AN IRON BALL THAT CAME IN FROM DIRECTLY BEHIND HIM.
TMP
TMP
SWISH

...THEY COOPERATE!
...AND IN A BATTLE OF THIS SPEED...
THEY ARE USERS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF BREATHING TECHNIQUES...
GOOD THING WE TRAINED TOGETHER AS HASHIRA, HIMEJIMA!
UH-HUH.

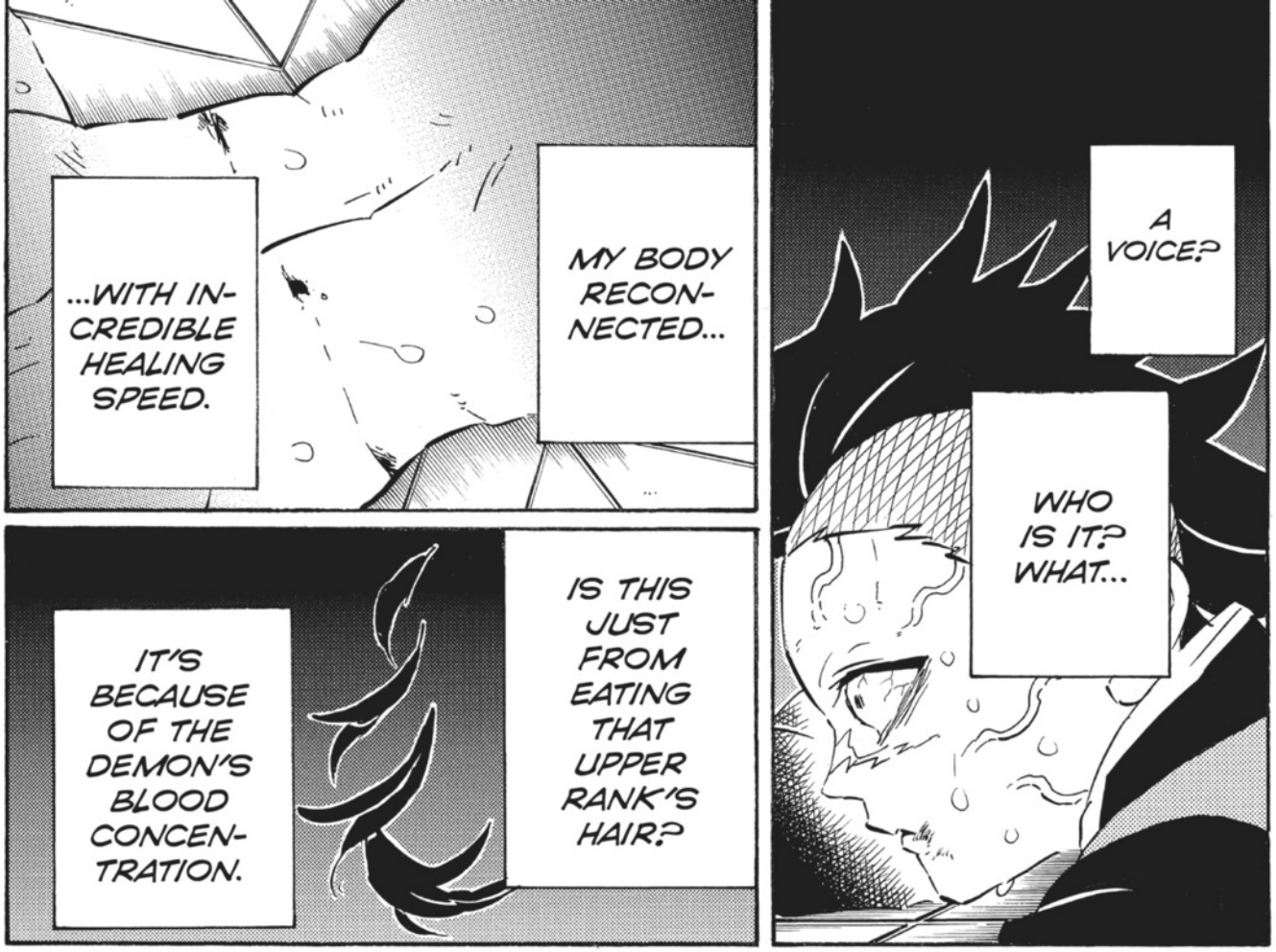
The miraculous moment when the groups reunited
Murata

CHAPTER 171: TRANSFORMATION

GENYA...
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

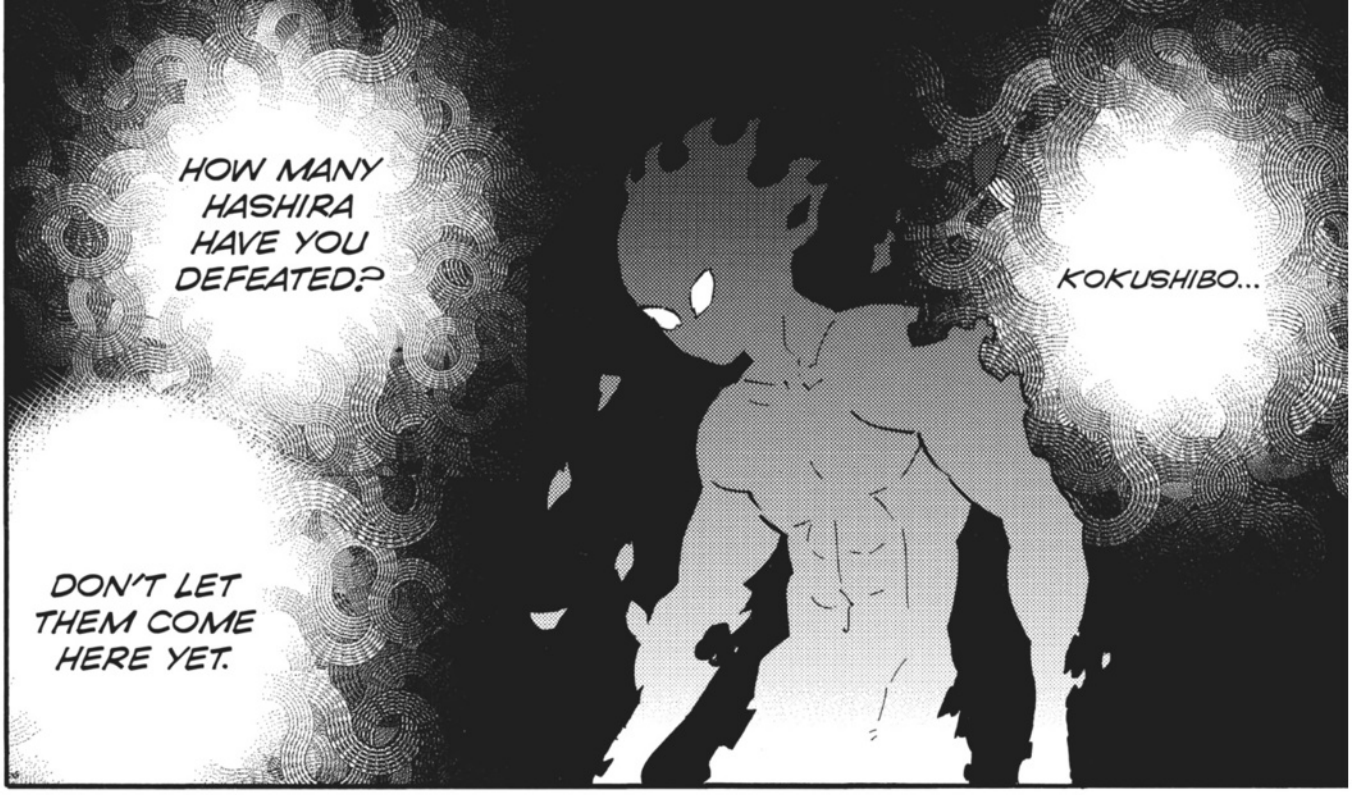

HUFF
GENYA!
HUFF
HUFF
HANG IN THERE. YOU CAN DO IT.
GENYA?

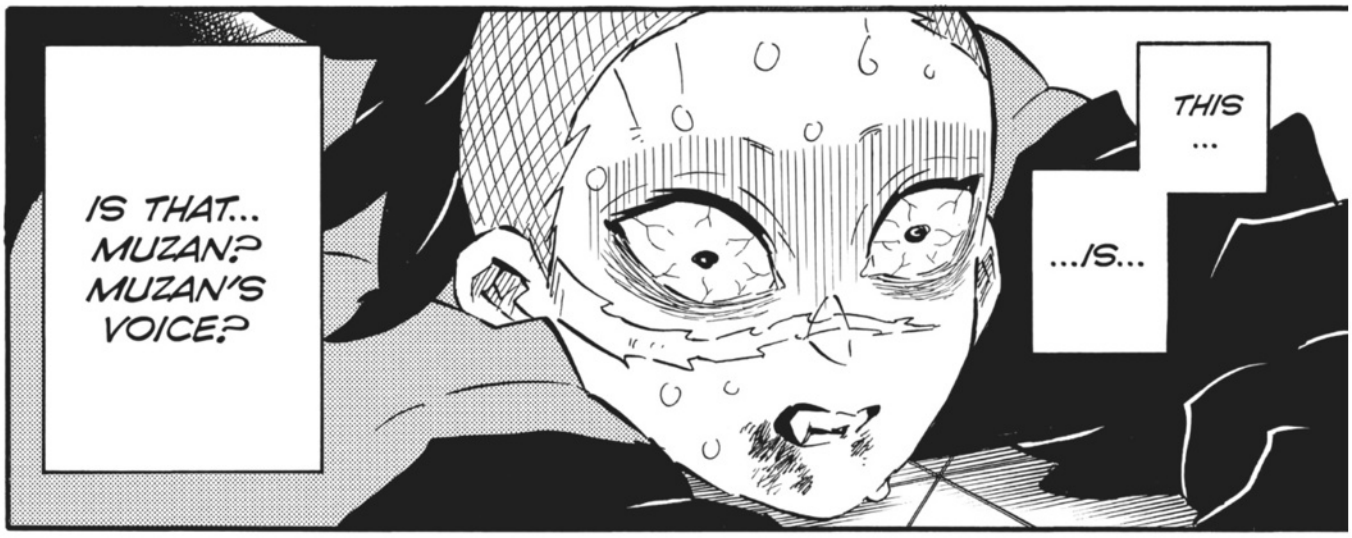
BA BMP
BA BMP
BA BMP
HUFF
HUFF

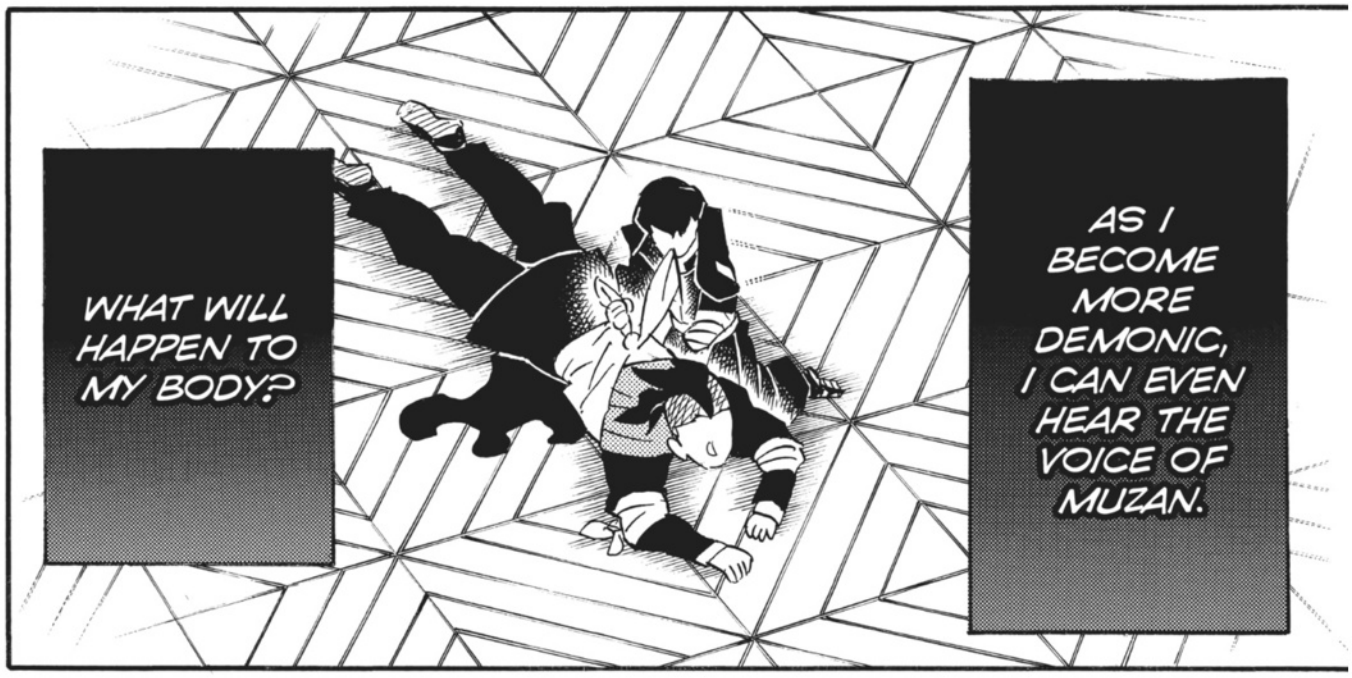

A VOICE?
WHO IS IT? WHAT...
MY BODY RECONNECTED...
...WITH INCREDIBLE HEALING SPEED.
IS THIS JUST FROM EATING THAT UPPER RANK'S HAIR?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DEMON'S BLOOD CONCENTRATION.

THE SPEED OF MY CIRCULATION IS INCREASING.
I FEEL GOOD...
THERE'S ONE MORE THING— THE TIP OF THAT DEMON'S BROKEN KATANA.
IF I COULD EAT THAT, I'D GET MORE...

UNGH... THAT VOICE AGAIN...
...RESOUNDING IN MY HEAD...


HOW MANY HASHIRA HAVE YOU DEFEATED?
KOKUSHIBO...
DON'T LET THEM COME HERE YET.


IS THAT... MUZAN? MUZAN'S VOICE?
THIS ...
...IS...


WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BODY?
AS I BECOME MORE DEMONIC, I CAN EVEN HEAR THE VOICE OF MUZAN.

I SEE...
PERHAPS THESE TWO...
...ARE HIGHLY SKILLED EVEN AMONG THE HASHIRA.
ESPECIALLY THIS ONE...
DESPITE BEING BLIND...
...HE IS A SWORDSMAN WITH AN OUT-STANDING PHYSIQUE.

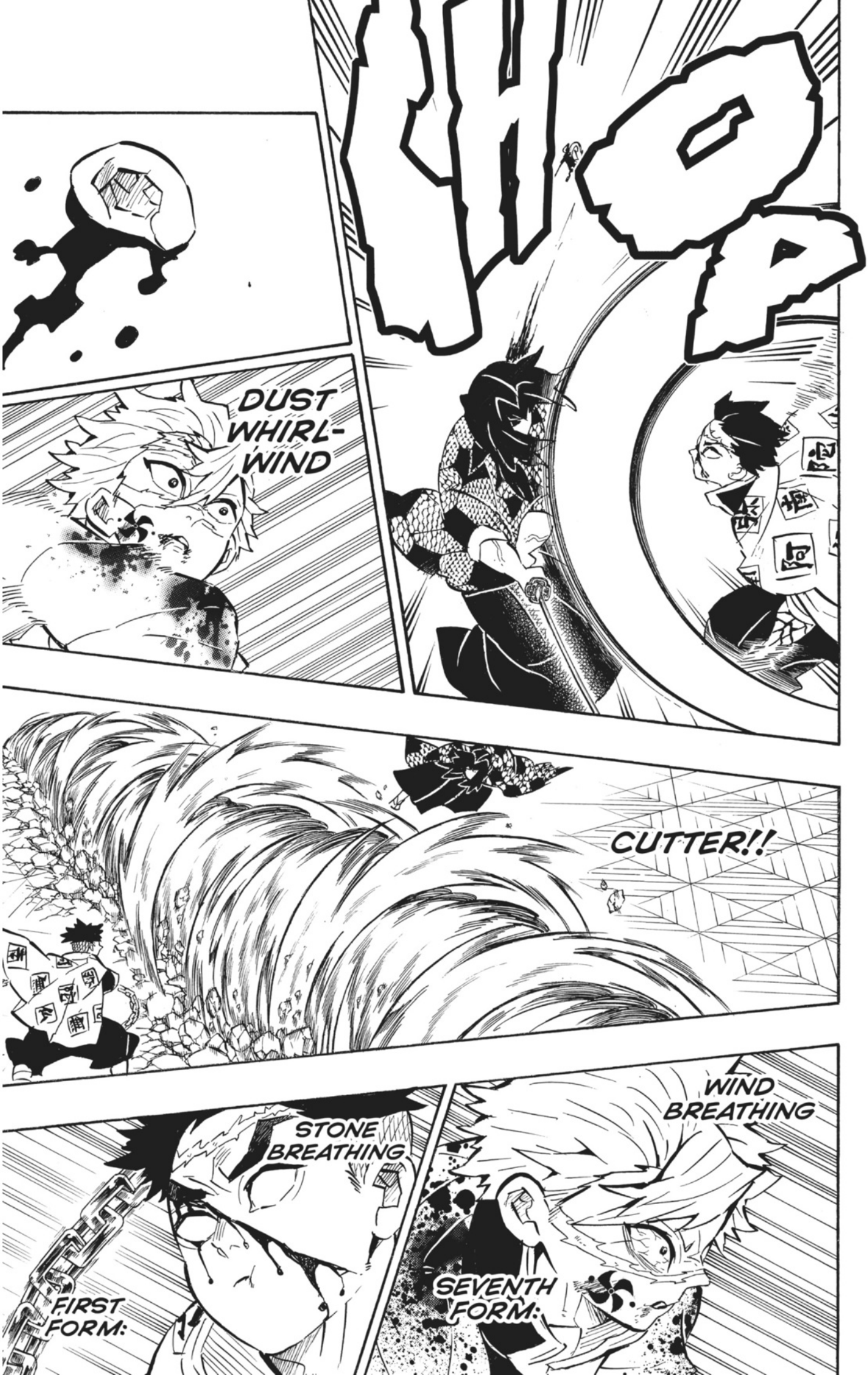
THIS WEAPON IS WELL THOUGHT OUT.
FROM THE ECHOES OF THE SWINGING CHAIN...
...HE HAS AN EXTREMELY ACCURATE GRASP OF SPACE AND MOVEMENT AROUND HIM.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT.
SO...
...FIRST...
...I MUST DESTROY HIS...

...
WEAPON!
*AKKIMESSATSU, DESTROYER OF DEMONS
...BREAK EASILY WHEN STRUCK FROM THE SIDE.
BLADES ...

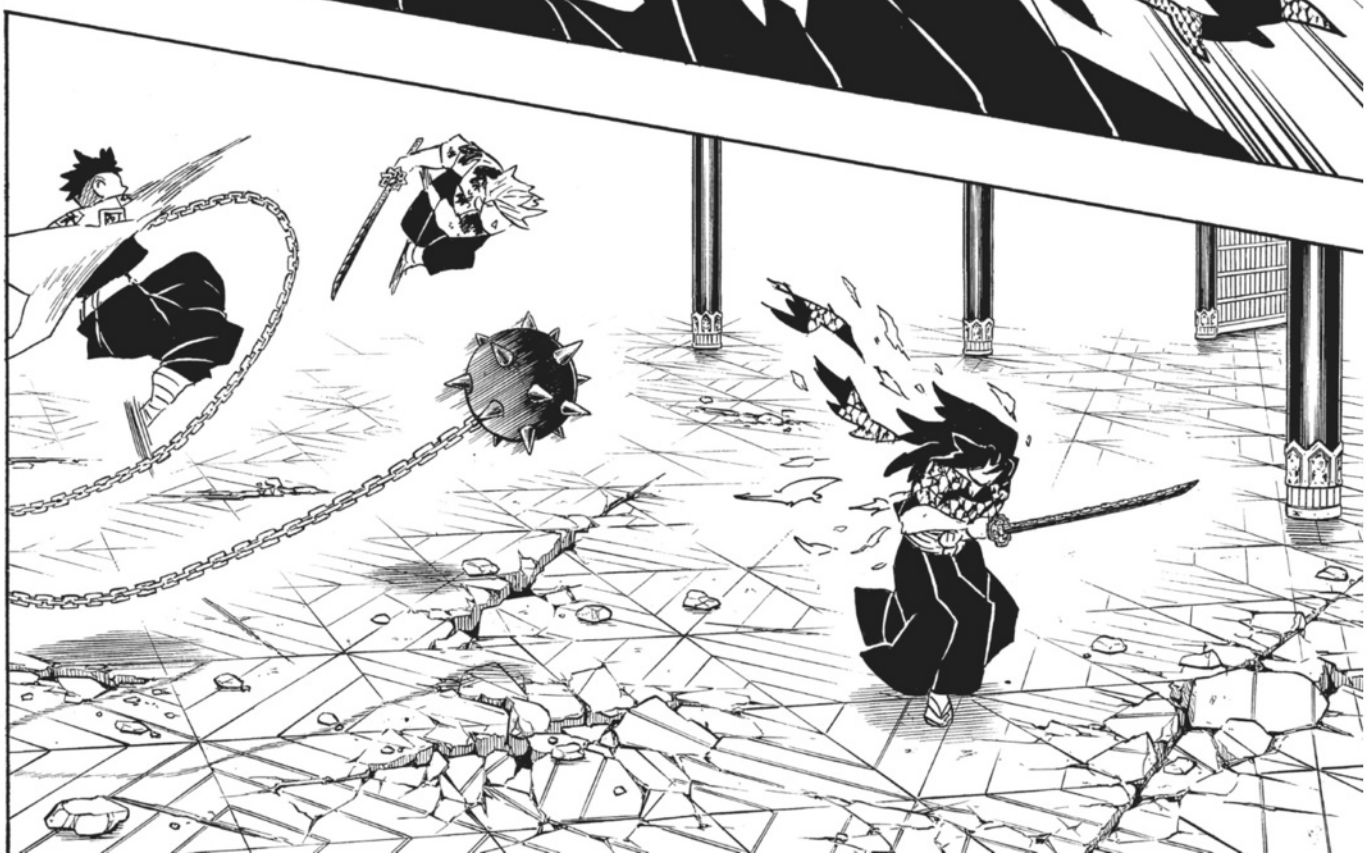
SLAM
WSH
HIS REFLEXES ARE GETTING FASTER.
HE TURNED THE BLADE ON EDGE TO REPEL MY ATTACK.
Wsh

EVEN AFTER MANIFESTING THE MARK...
FWSH
...AND SUFFERING A FATAL WOUND THAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE TAKEN HIM OUT OF THE FIGHT...
...HE'S BECOMING FASTER AND MORE ACCURATE!

WHAT
南
竹
茨
ドド


HOP
DUST WHIRL-WIND
CUTTER!!
STONE BREATHING
FIRST FORM:
WIND BREATHING
SEVENTH FORM:

GALE
SERPENTINITE BIPOLAR!
SUDDEN GUSTS!



PRESS HIM!
NOT YET!!
...TAKE HIS HEAD!
UNTIL WE...
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
HIS HEAD!!

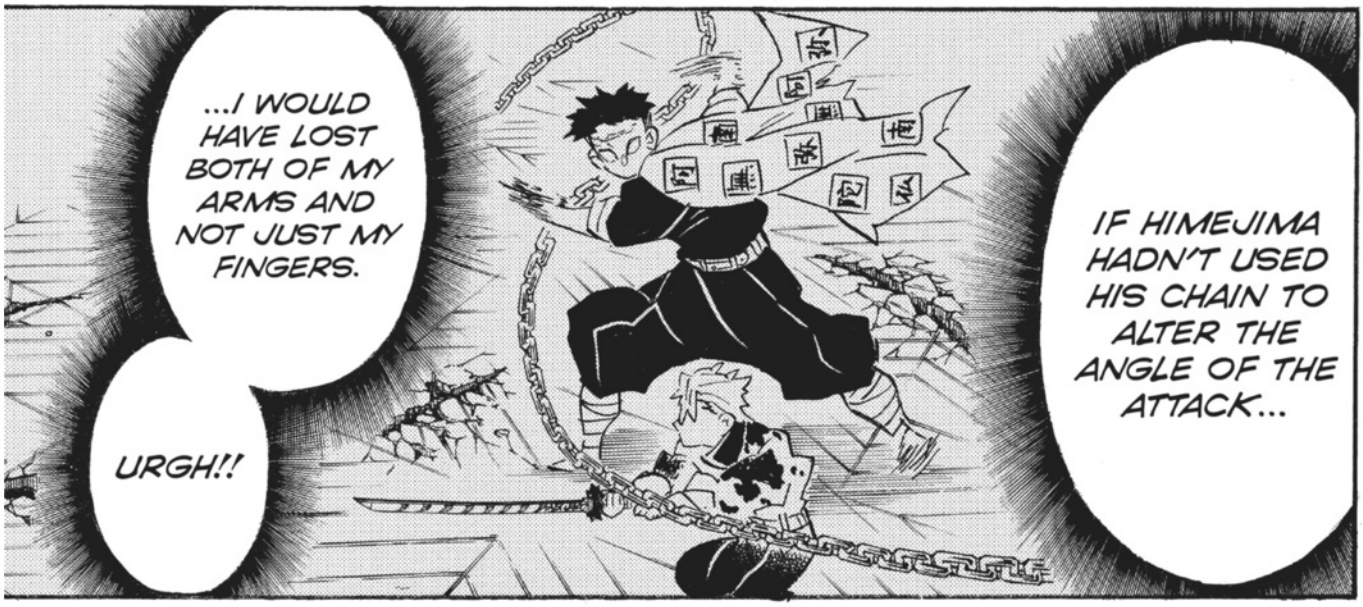
IMPOS-
SIBLE!
WHAT DID HE DO TO US?!
HIT US WITH AN ATTACK AT THIS RANGE?!
WHAT DID HE DO?
WHAT...
WISH
KIN
SH

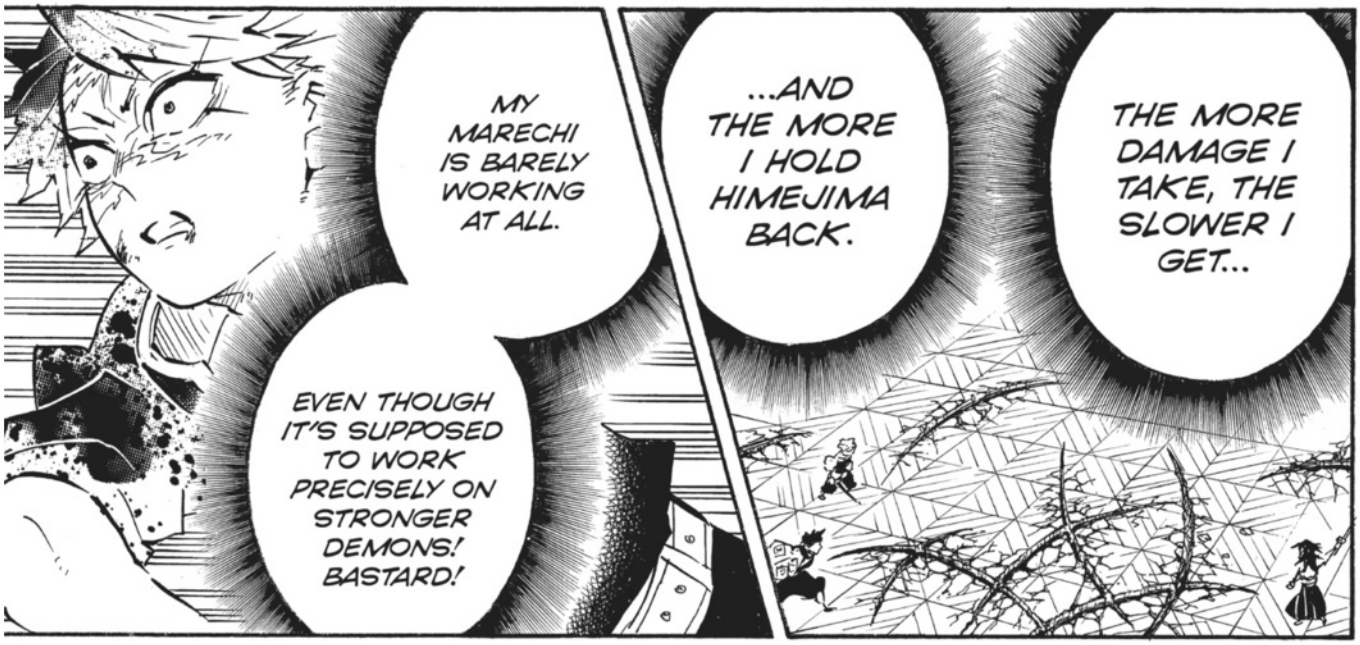
NOT EVEN ENOUGH TO KILL AN *INFANT*.
YOU MERELY SHREDDED MY KIMONO...
ONCE I DISPATCH YOU TWO... THE REST WILL PROCEED EASILY.

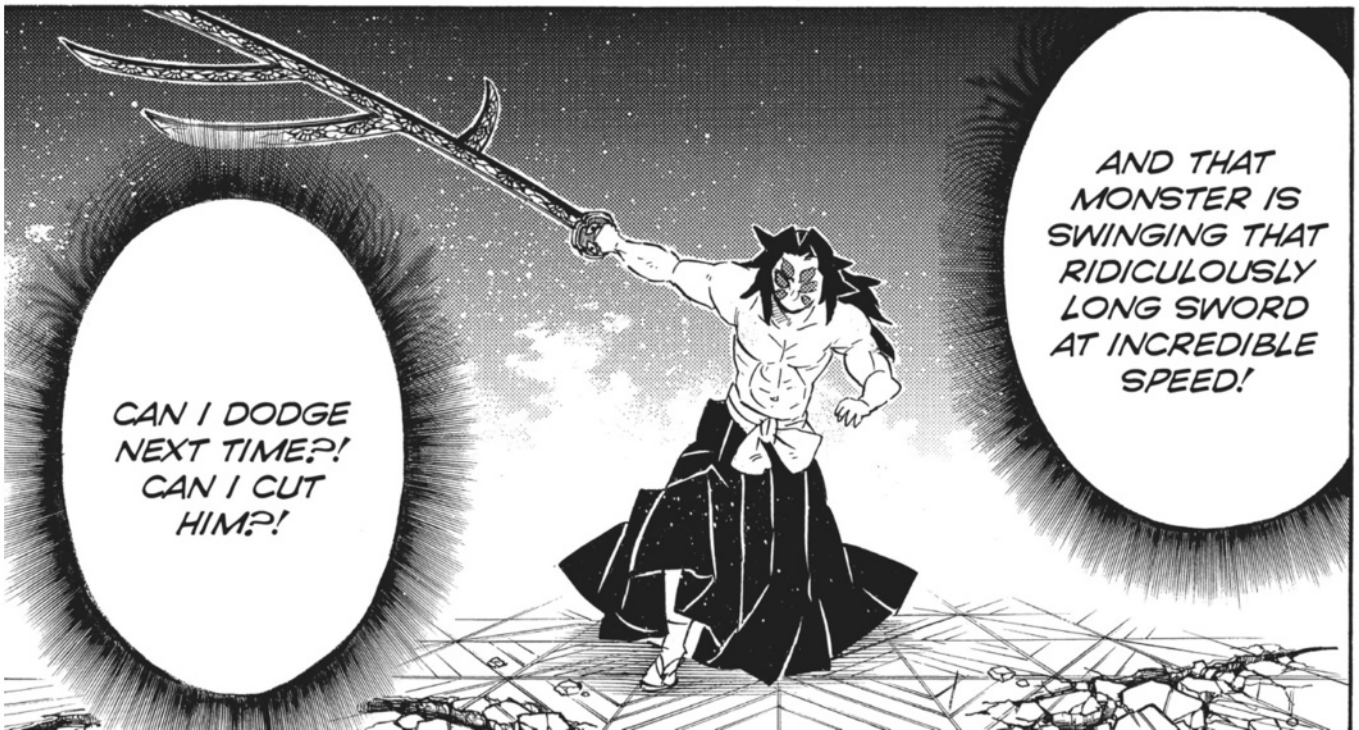
I said I was sorry, so forgive me!! Tanjiro would forgive me! But he probably wouldn't let me kick him!! Ga ha ha!
Kanao making a decision
...

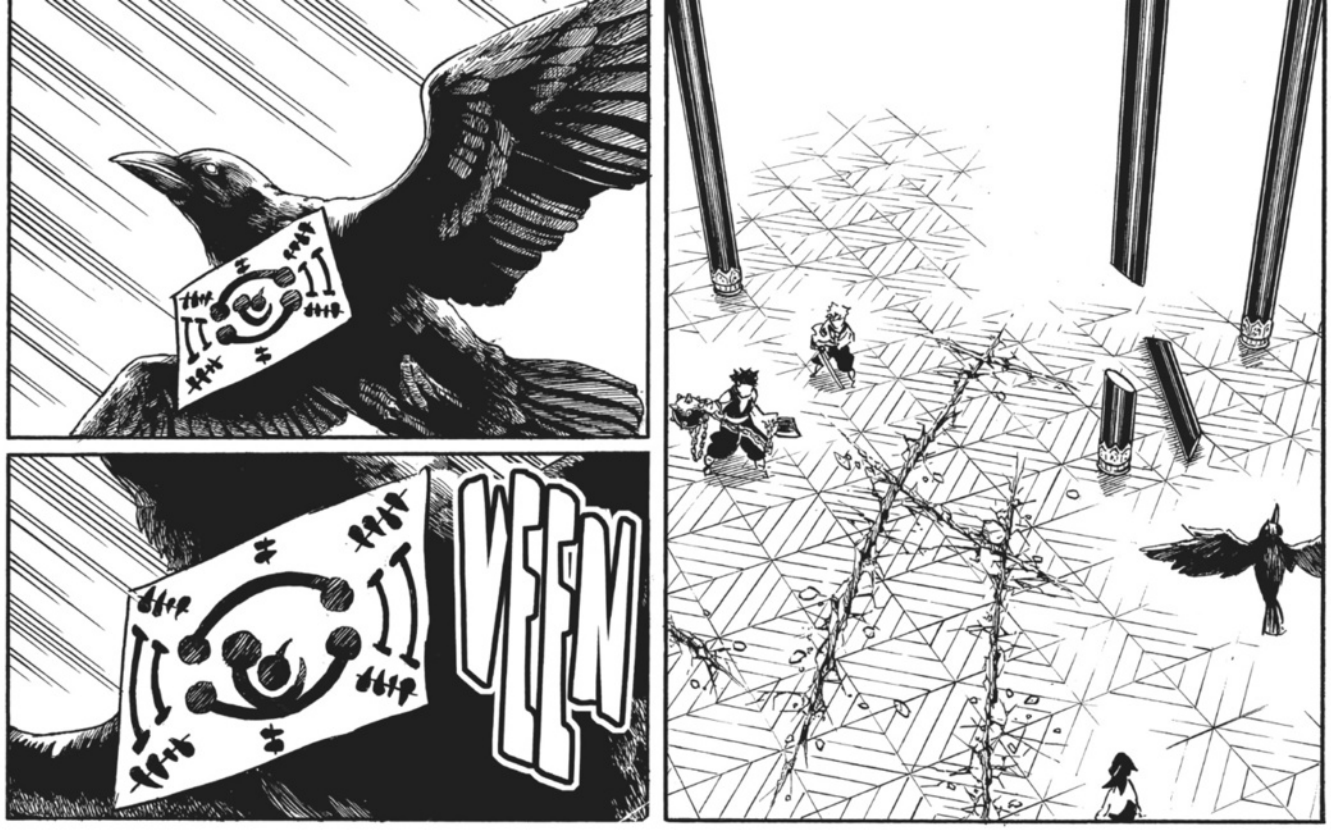
CHAPTER 172:
A WEAKLING'S POTENTIAL

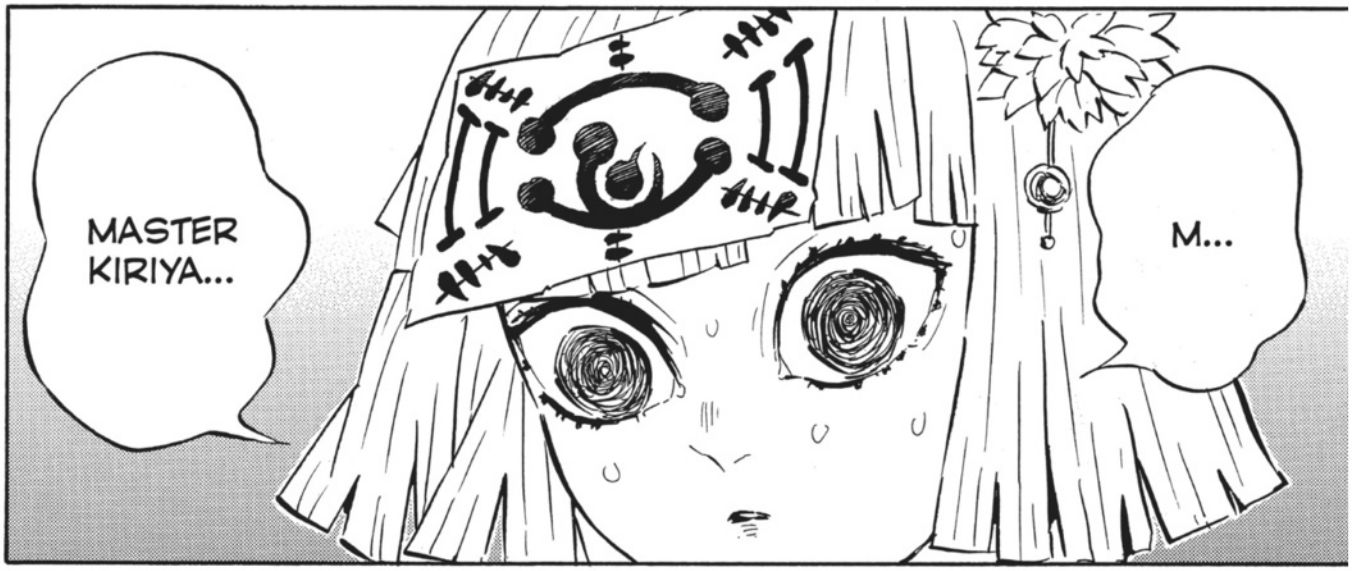
SHINA-
ZUGAWA
!!
I WAS BARELY ABLE TO RESPOND!
DAMN!

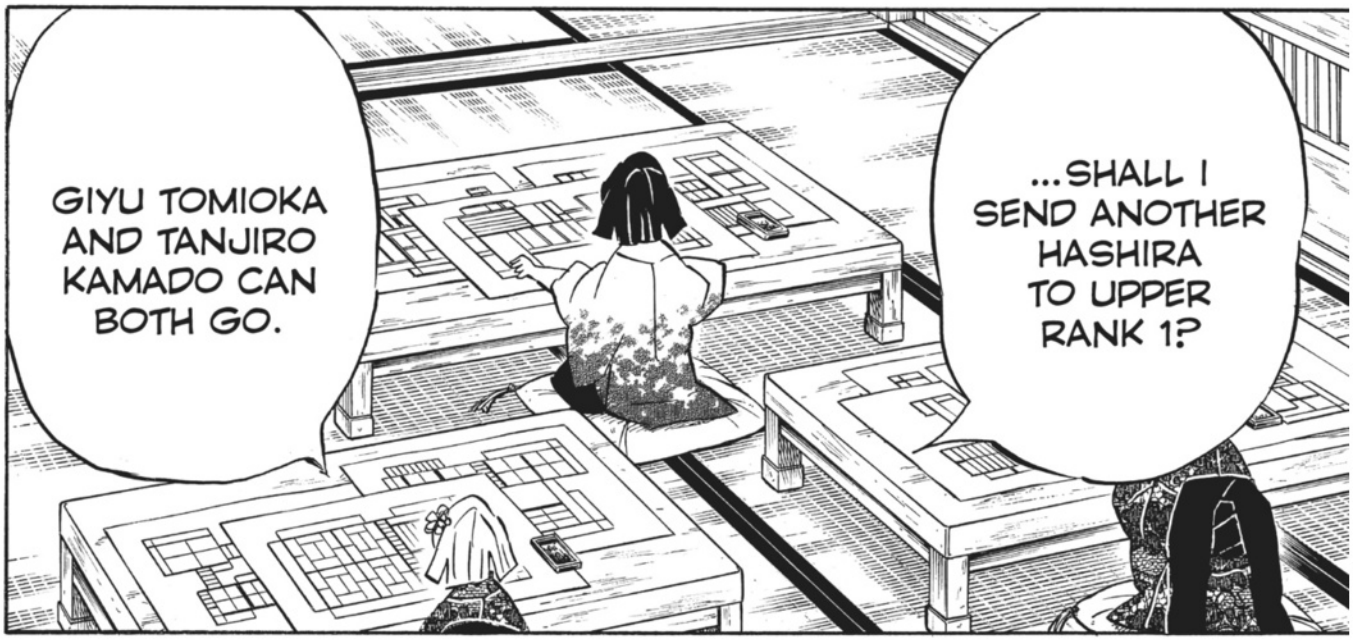

IF HIMEJIMA HADN'T USED HIS CHAIN TO ALTER THE ANGLE OF THE ATTACK...
...I WOULD HAVE LOST BOTH OF MY ARMS AND NOT JUST MY FINGERS.
URGH!!

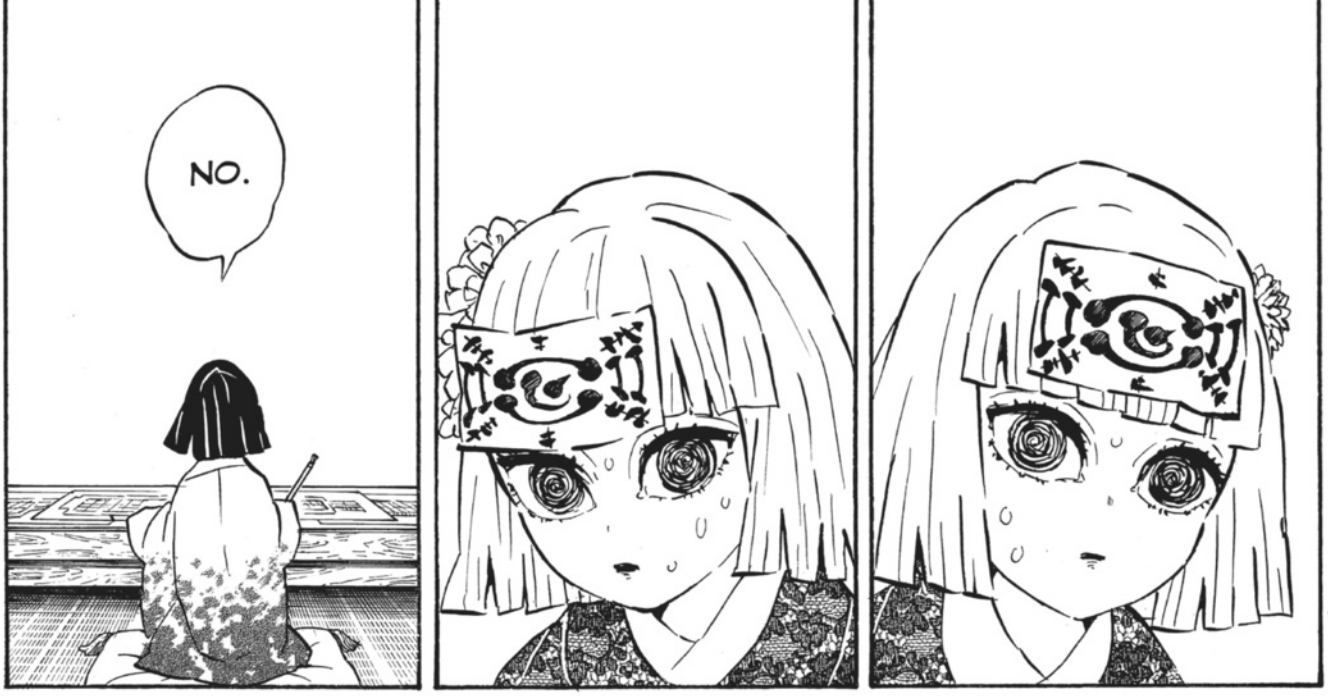

THE MORE DAMAGE I TAKE, THE SLOWER I GET...
...AND THE MORE I HOLD HIMEJIMA BACK.
MY MARECHI IS BARELY WORKING AT ALL.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK PRECISELY ON STRONGER DEMONS! BASTARD!

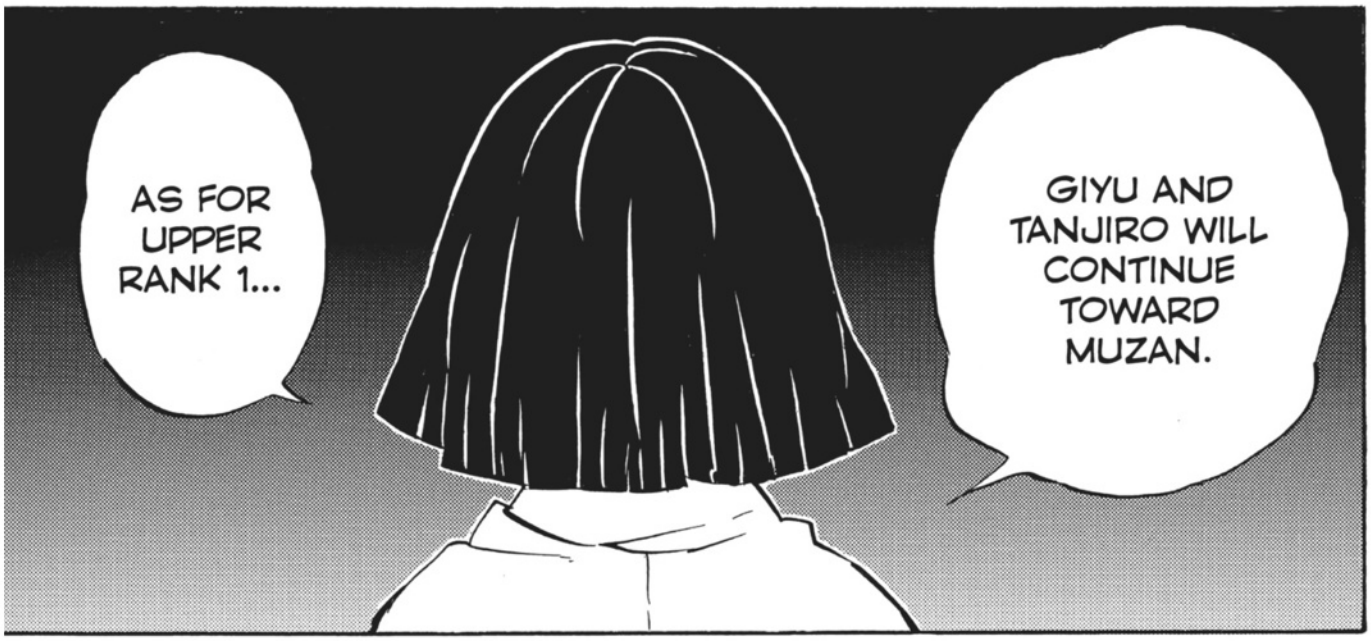

AND THAT MONSTER IS SWINGING THAT RIDICULOUSLY LONG SWORD AT INCREDIBLE SPEED!
CAN I DODGE NEXT TIME?! CAN I CUT HIM?!


VEEN

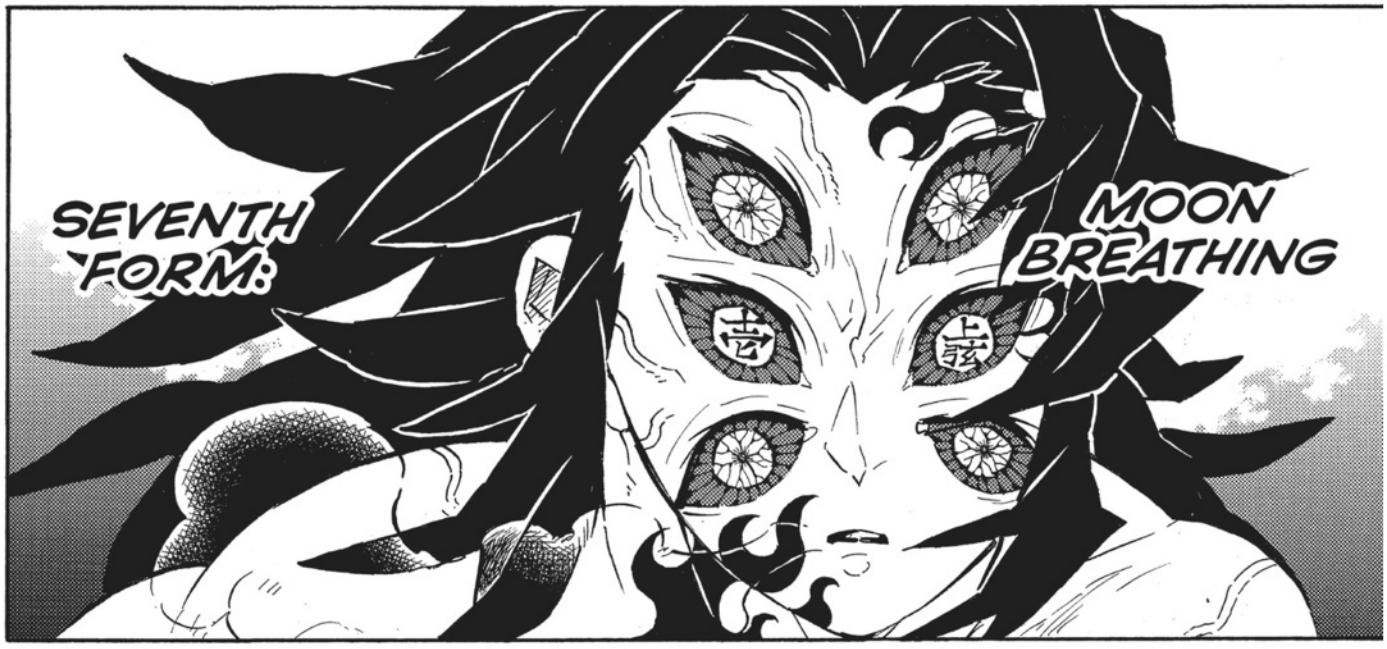

MASTER KIRIYA...
M...


GIYU TOMIOKA AND TANJIRO KAMADO CAN BOTH GO.
...SHALL I SEND ANOTHER HASHIRA TO UPPER RANK 1?

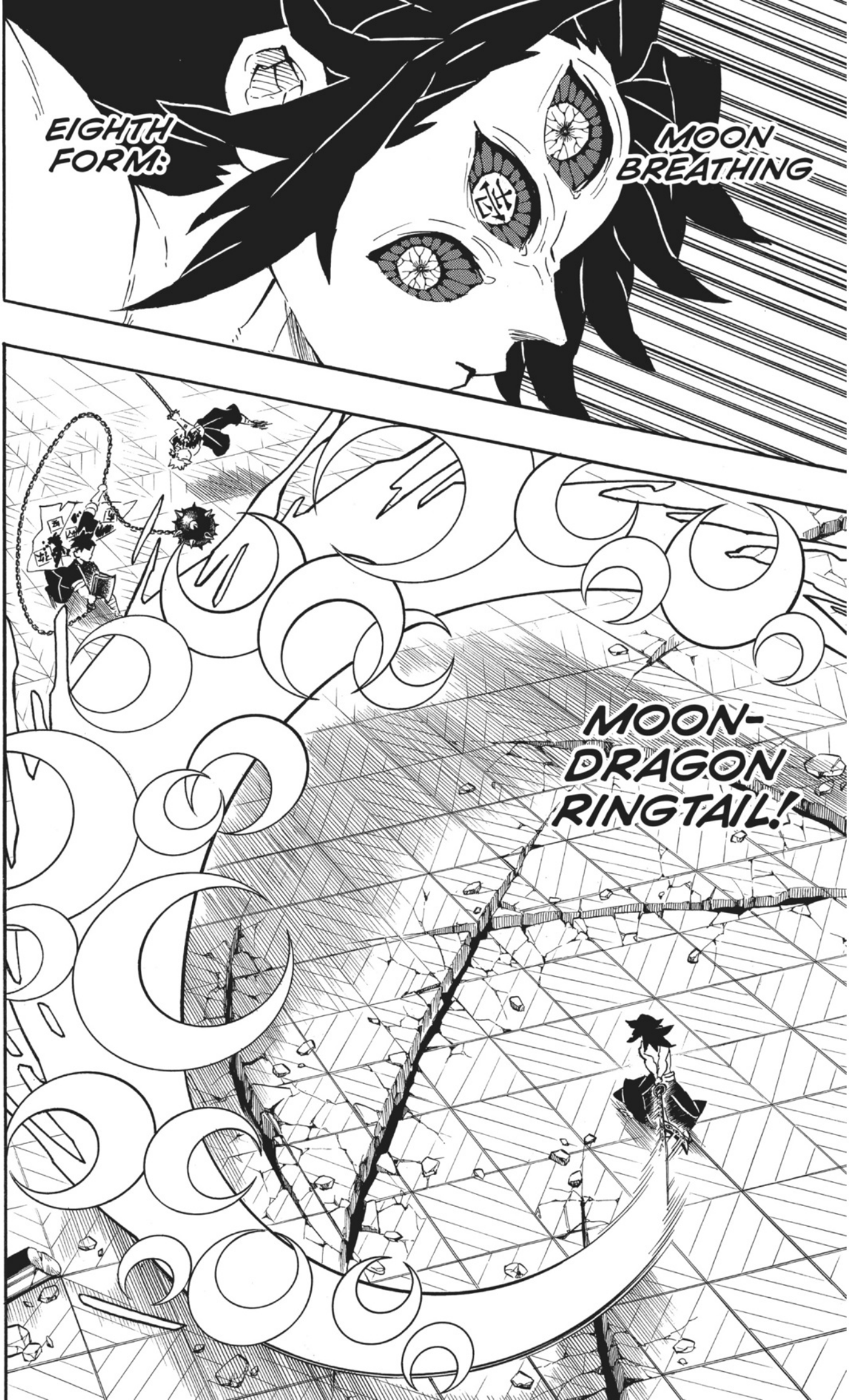

NO.

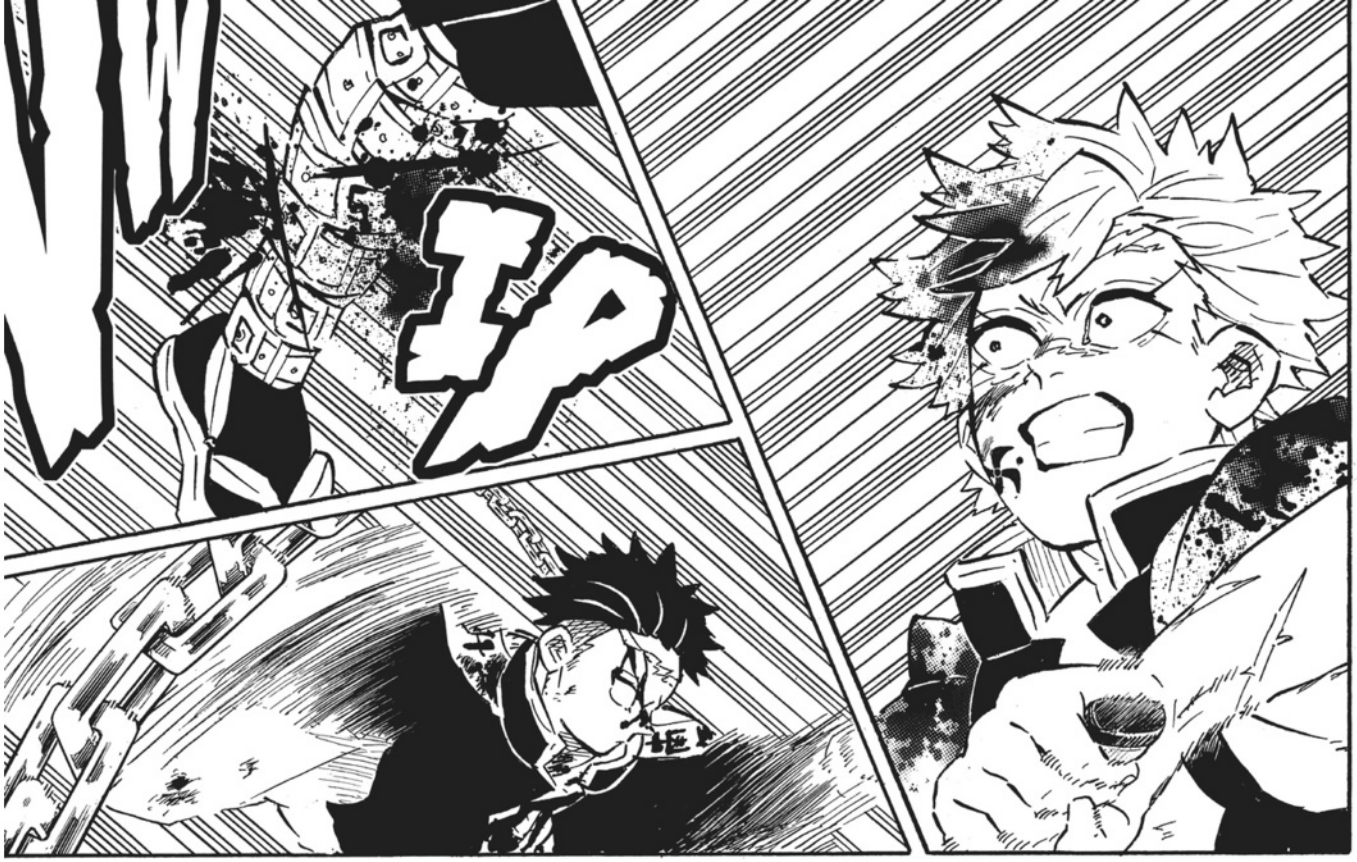

AS FOR UPPER RANK 1...
GIYU AND TANJIRO WILL CONTINUE TOWARD MUZAN.

...THOSE FOUR—GYOMEI, SANEMI, MUICHIRO AND GENYA—ARE SURE TO DEFEAT HIM.


SEVENTH FORM:
MOON BREATHING

MIRROR OF MISFORTUNE— MOONLIT
AND THIS SPEED... THIS IS BAD!!
WHAT REACH!! HIS ATTACK RANGE HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED!


EIGHTH FORM:
MOON BREATHING
MOON-DRAGON RINGTAIL!


IP

I'M USING ALL MY STRENGTH JUST TO DODGE ATTACKS!!
I CAN'T AIM FOR HIS NECK! I CAN'T GET CLOSE!!
HE'S TOO FAST! THIS IS BAD!!
MOON BREATHING
NINTH FORM:

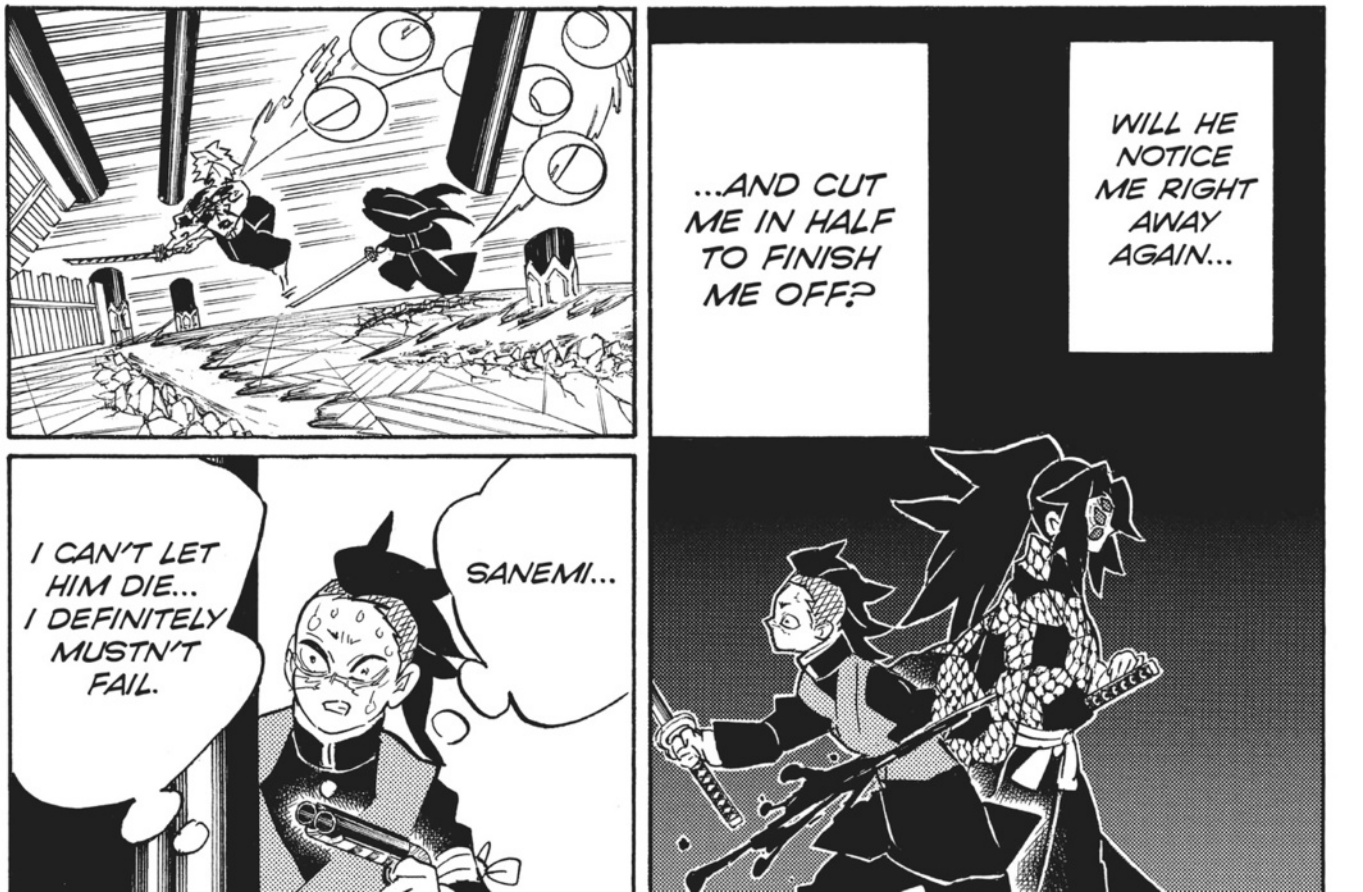
WANING MOON— SWATHS!

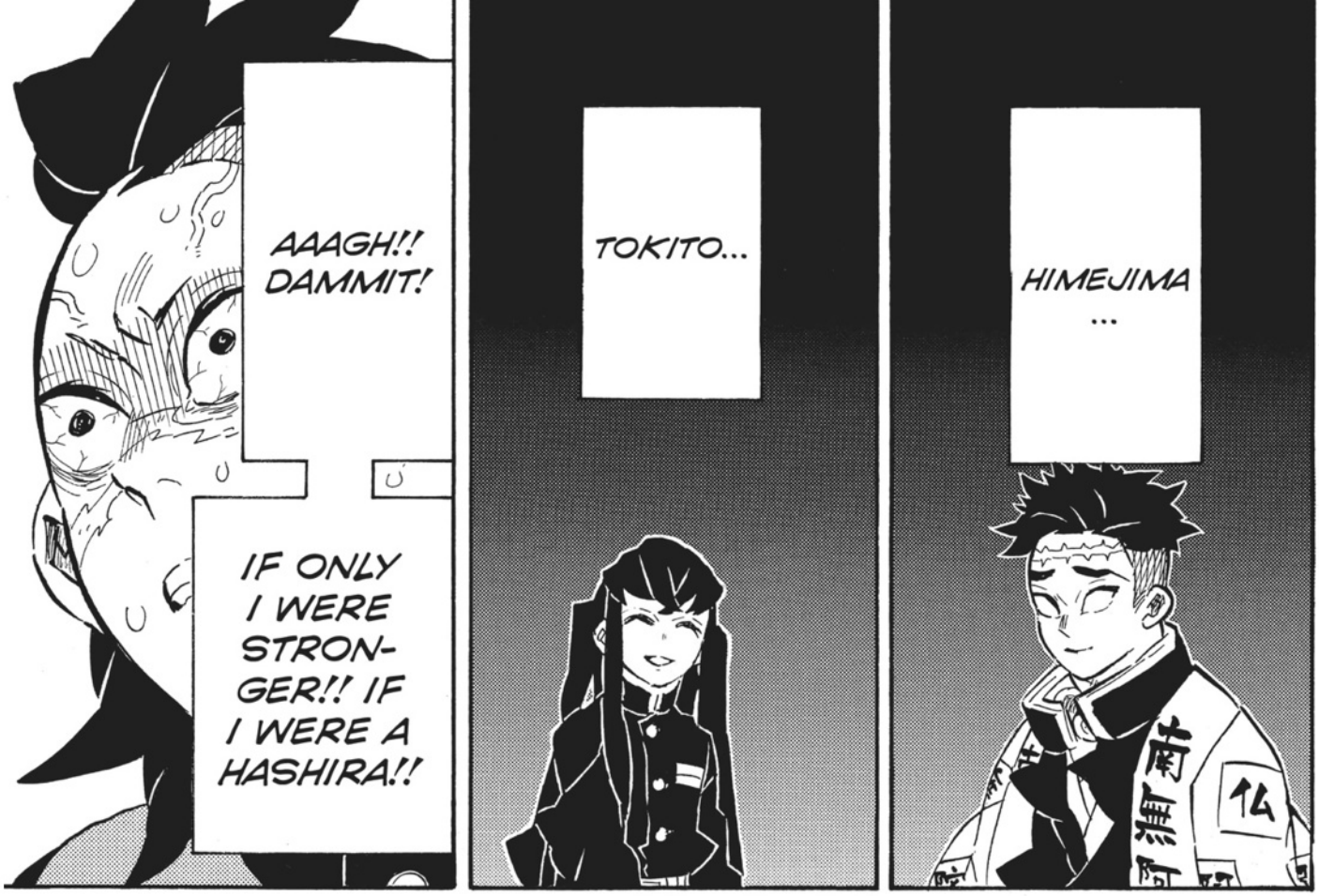
SLASH
SHINA-ZUGAWAAA!!
THMP
HIMEJIMA! FORGET ABOUT ME!
MOON-BREATH-ING
TENTH FORM:

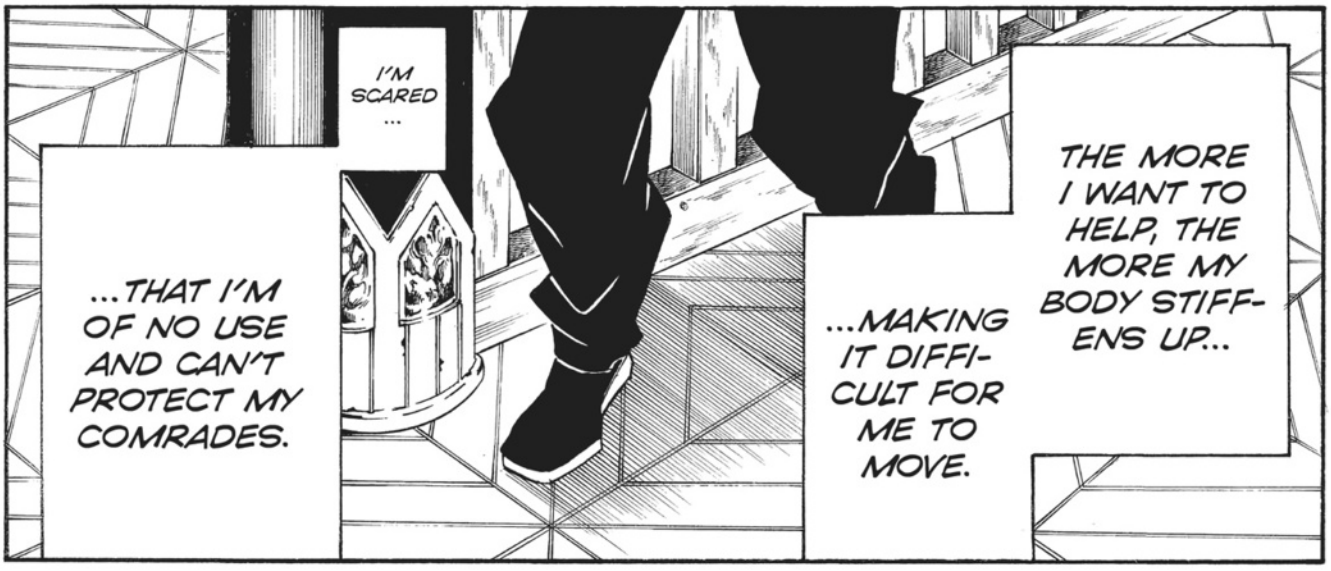
DRILLING SLASHES
MOON THROUGH BAMBOO LEAVES

FIGHT
TOKITO!!
YOU CAN STILL SWING A SWORD WITH BOTH ARMS!!
I WON'T LET YOU DIE!

BA BMP
CAN I BE OF ANY USE?
BA BMP
CAN I DO THIS?

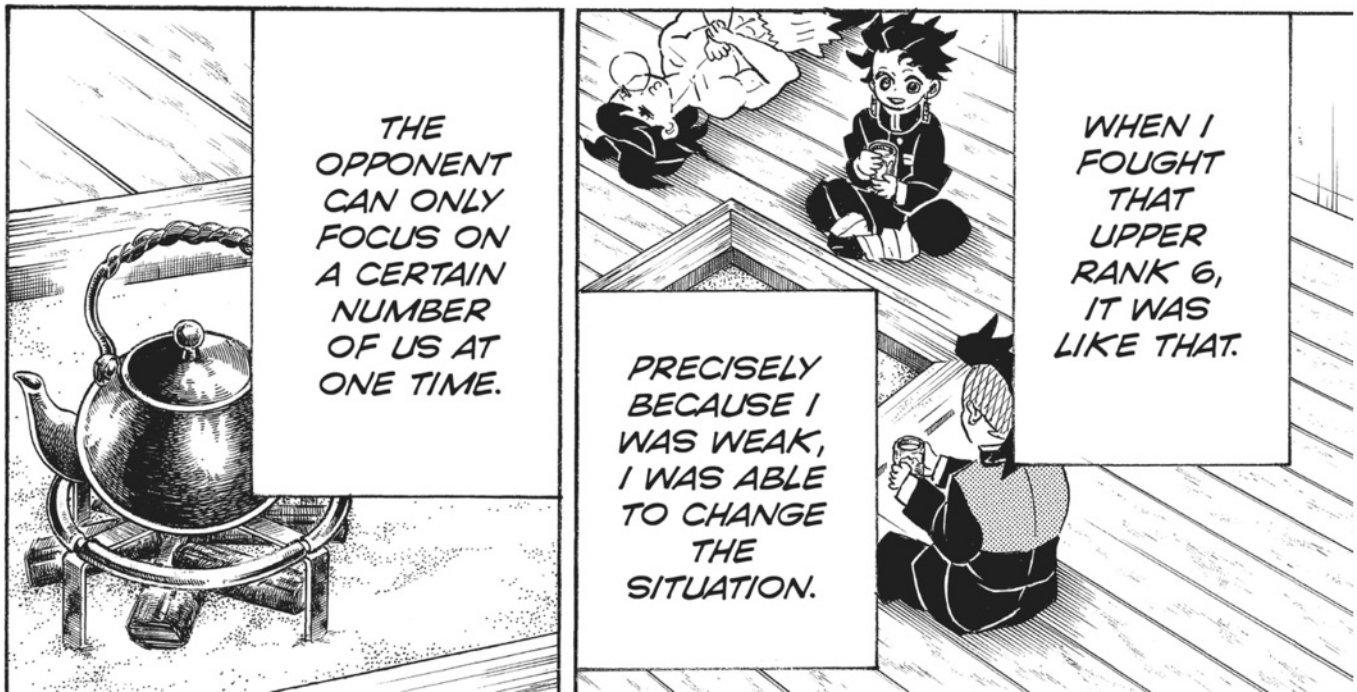

WILL HE NOTICE ME RIGHT AWAY AGAIN...
...AND CUT ME IN HALF TO FINISH ME OFF?
SANEMI...
I CAN'T LET HIM DIE... I DEFINITELY MUSTN'T FAIL.

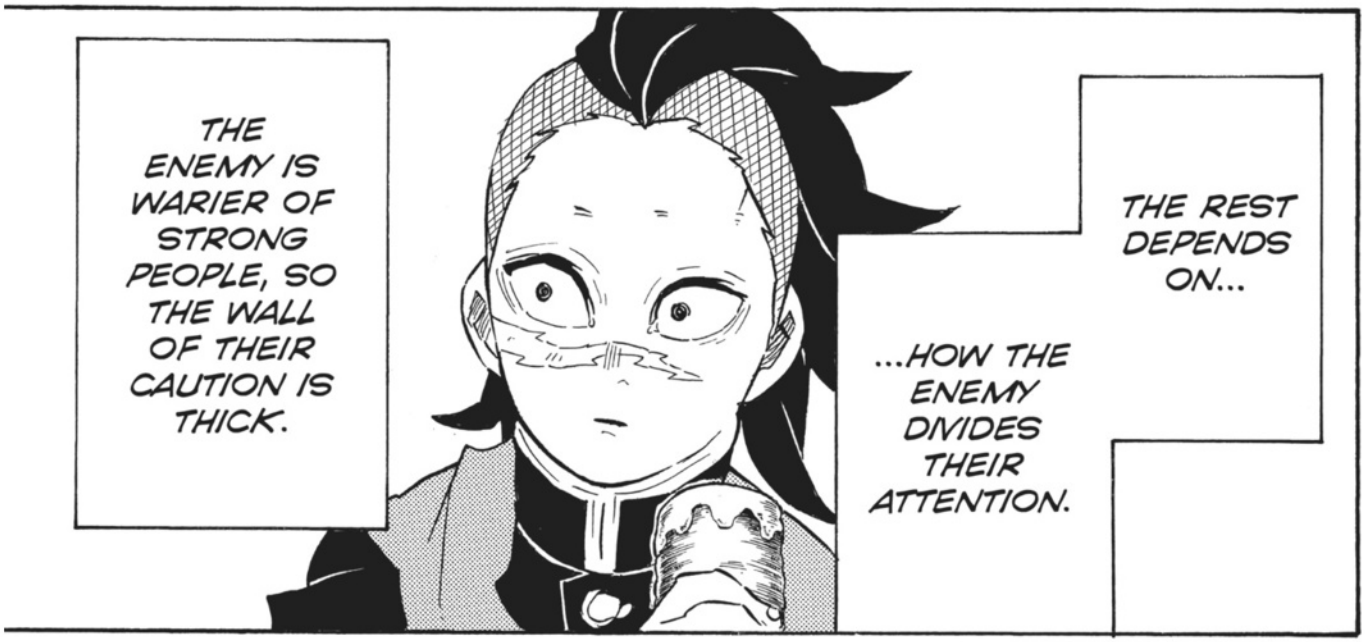

HIMEJIMA
...
TOKITO...
AAAGH!! DAMMIT!
IF ONLY I WERE STRON-GER!! IF I WERE A HASHIRA!!

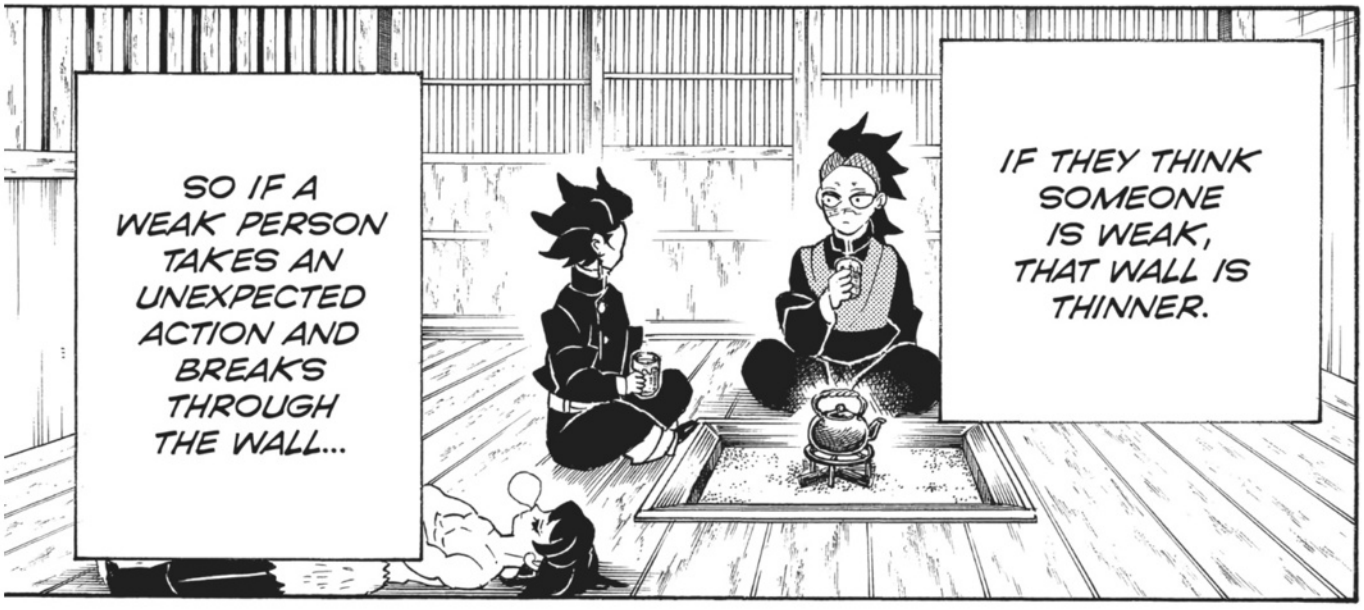

I'M SCARED ...
...THAT I'M OF NO USE AND CAN'T PROTECT MY COMRADES.
...MAKING IT DIFFI-CULT FOR ME TO MOVE.
THE MORE I WANT TO HELP, THE MORE MY BODY STIFF-ENS UP...

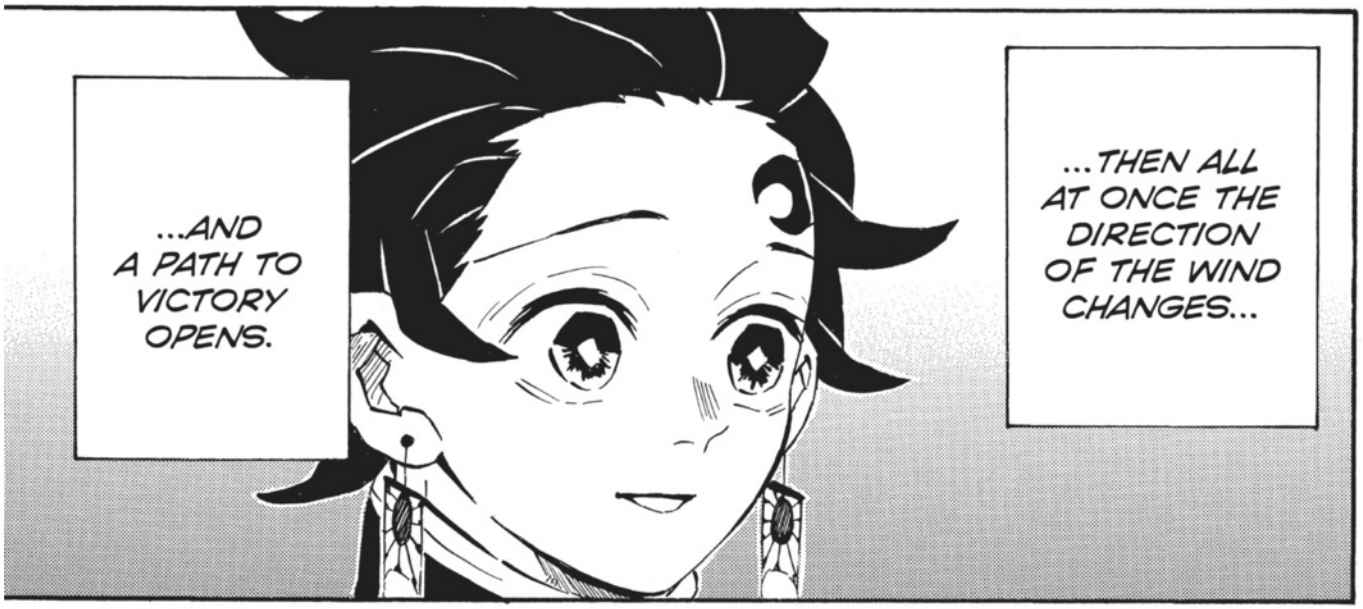
IT'S FRUS-TRATING TO BE WEAK.
WHY AM I SO WEAK?
IT'S FRUS-TRATING!

THE WEAKEST PERSON...
...HAS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL, GENYA.


THE OPPONENT CAN ONLY FOCUS ON A CERTAIN NUMBER OF US AT ONE TIME.
PRECISELY BECAUSE I WAS WEAK, I WAS ABLE TO CHANGE THE SITUATION.
WHEN I FOUGHT THAT UPPER RANK 6, IT WAS LIKE THAT.

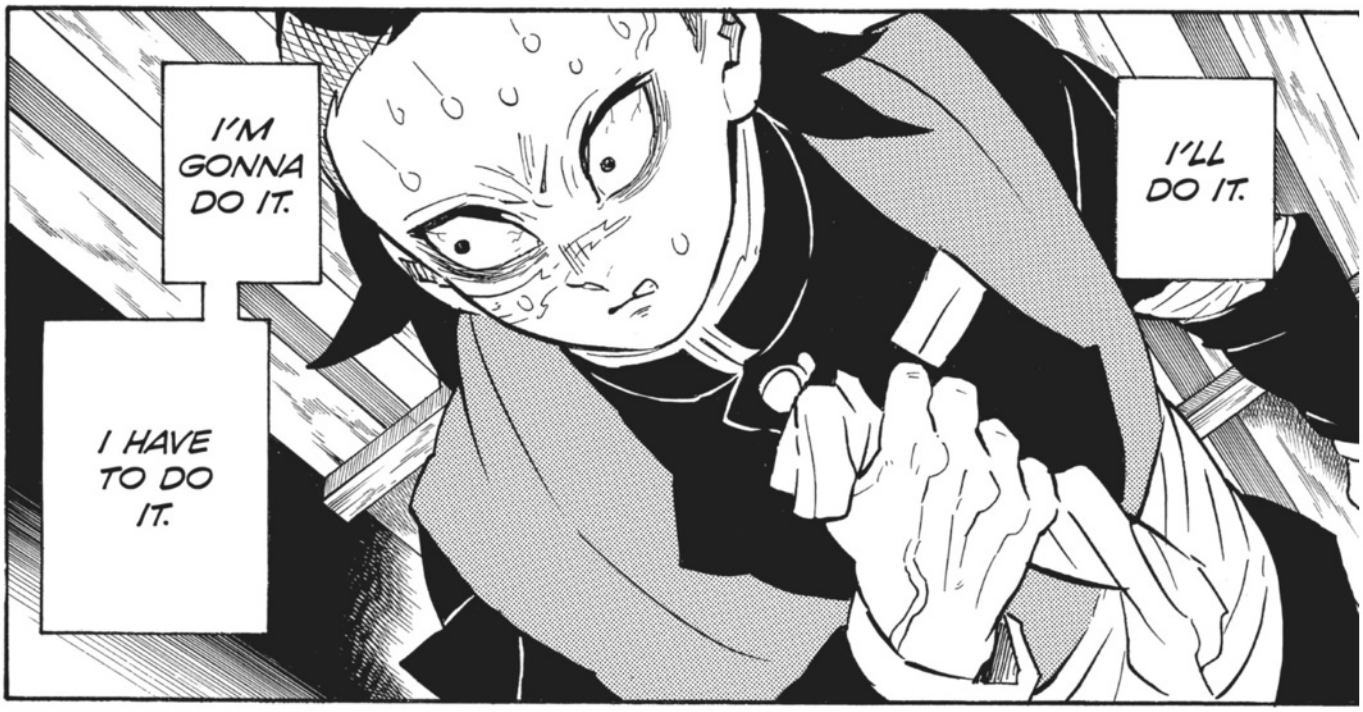

THE ENEMY IS WARIER OF STRONG PEOPLE, SO THE WALL OF THEIR CAUTION IS THICK.
...HOW THE ENEMY DIVIDES THEIR ATTENTION.
THE REST DEPENDS ON...


SO IF A WEAK PERSON TAKES AN UNEXPECTED ACTION AND BREAKS THROUGH THE WALL...
IF THEY THINK SOMEONE IS WEAK, THAT WALL IS THINNER.


...AND A PATH TO VICTORY OPENS.
...THEN ALL AT ONCE THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND CHANGES...

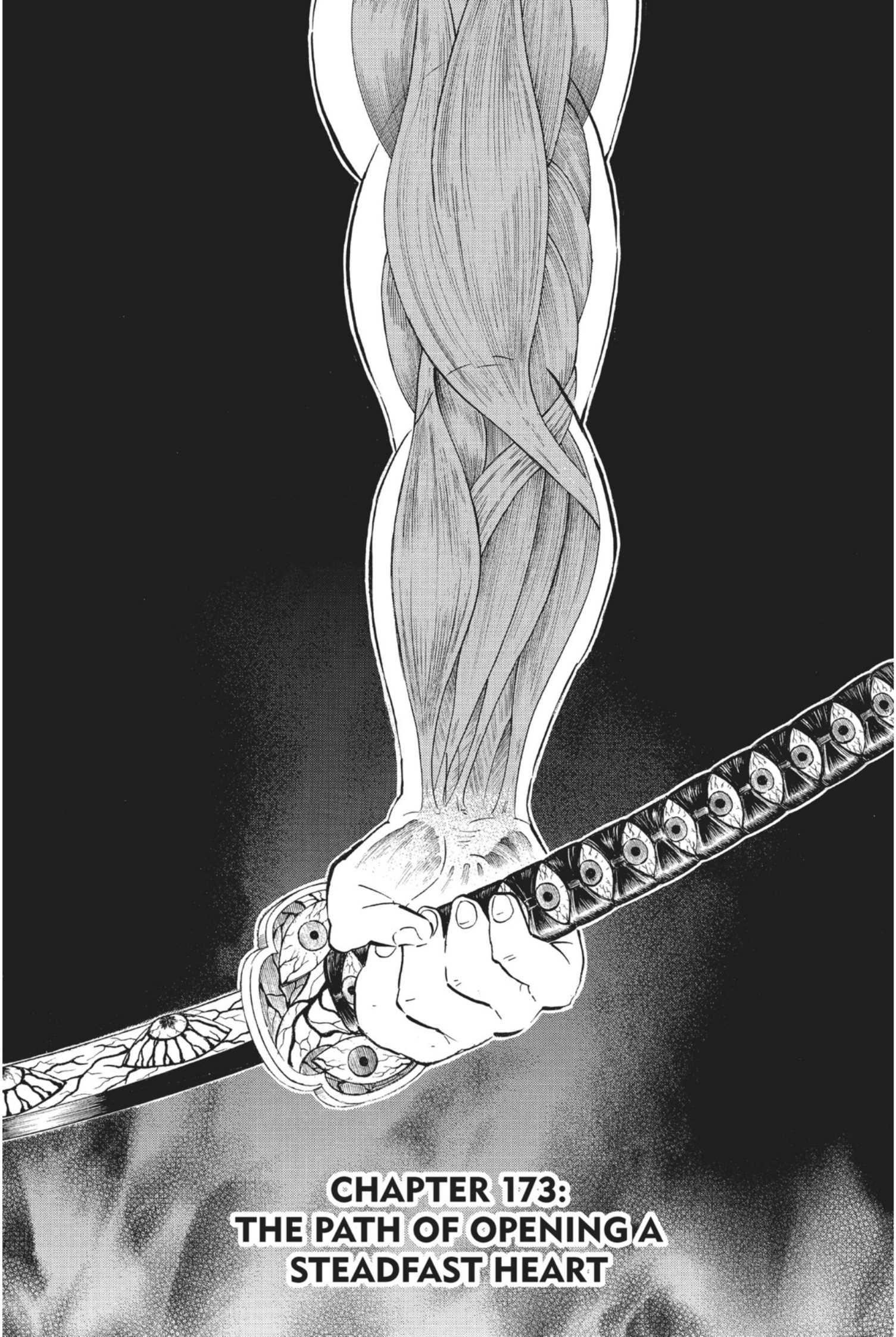
BABMP
TANJIRO...
TANJIRO...
REALLY? IS THAT REALLY TRUE? DO YOU THINK I CAN DO IT?
BABMP

BA BMP
BA BMP
BABMP
BABMP

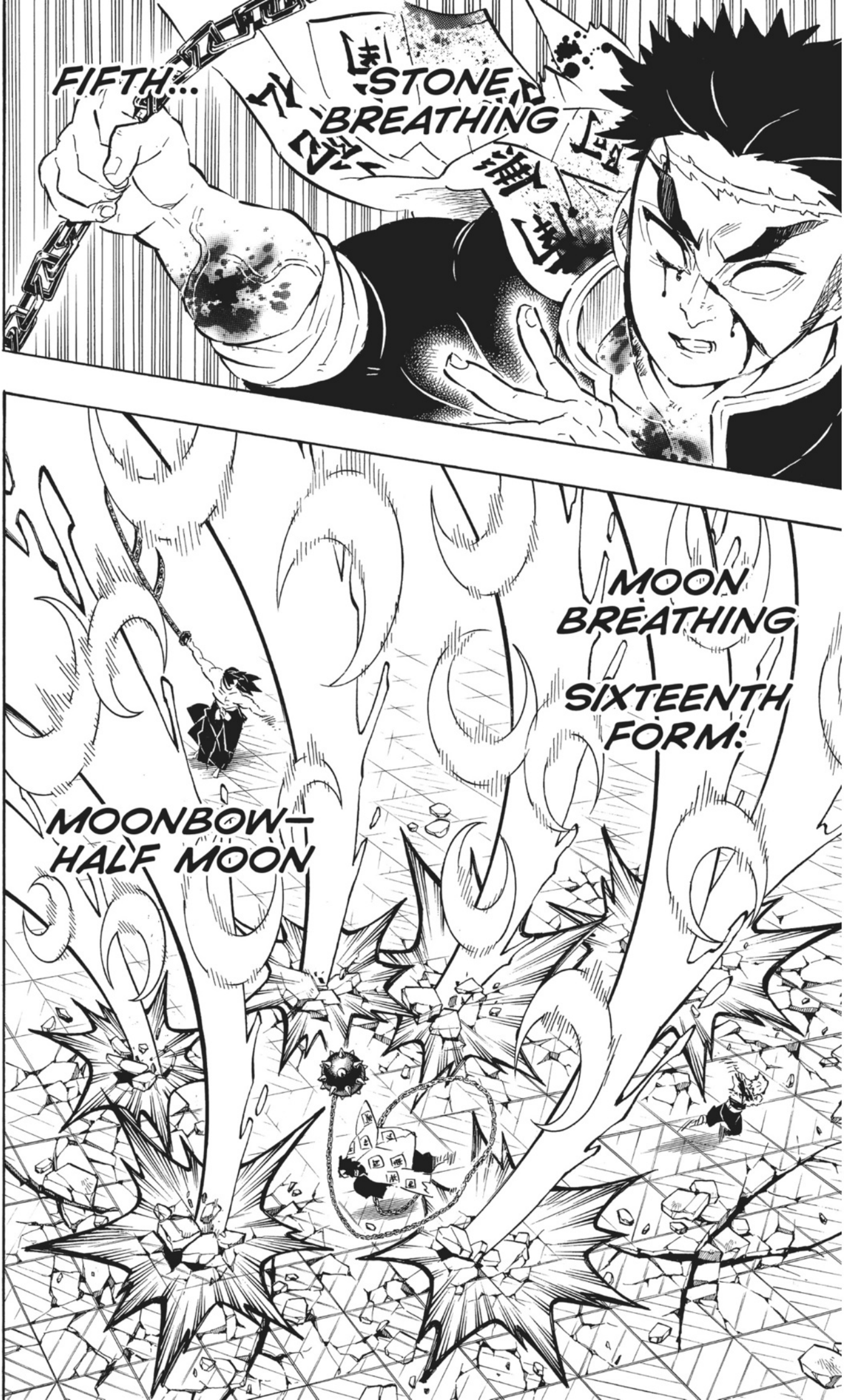

I'M GONNA DO IT.
I HAVE TO DO IT.
I'LL DO IT.

I WILL NOT LET MY BROTHER...
...OR THE MASTER...
...OR MY COMRADES DIE!
THINK ONLY ABOUT WINNING.
STAY ON THE OFFEN-SIVE.
MMF
...BUT BEING SO FAINT-HEARTED IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
I THOUGHT I WOULD EAT IT WHEN I GOT CUT AGAIN...
BWM

Aoi's recommended disciplinary method: spanking
Don't hold back when you do it!
Murata is overjoyed.
SPANK
SPANK
GYAAAH!
Kanao is normally quiet, so Inosuke was caught off guard.



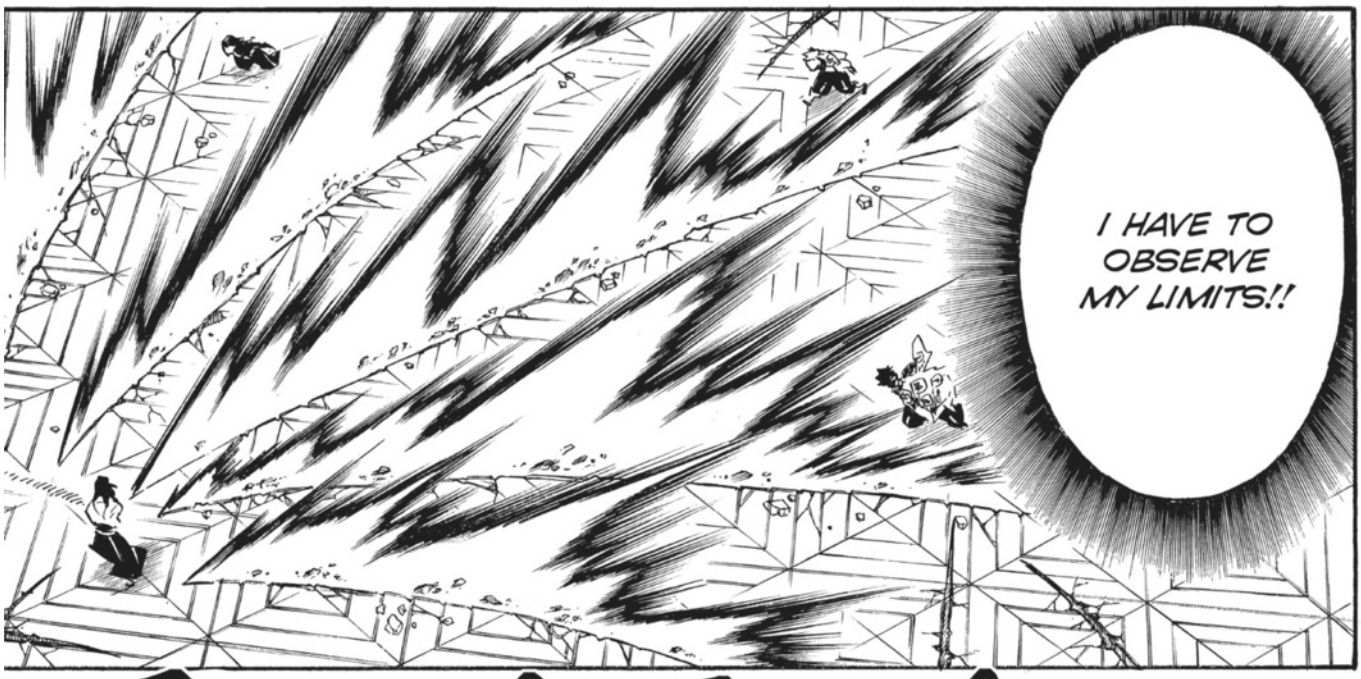
CHAPTER 173: THE PATH OF OPENING A STEADFAST HEART

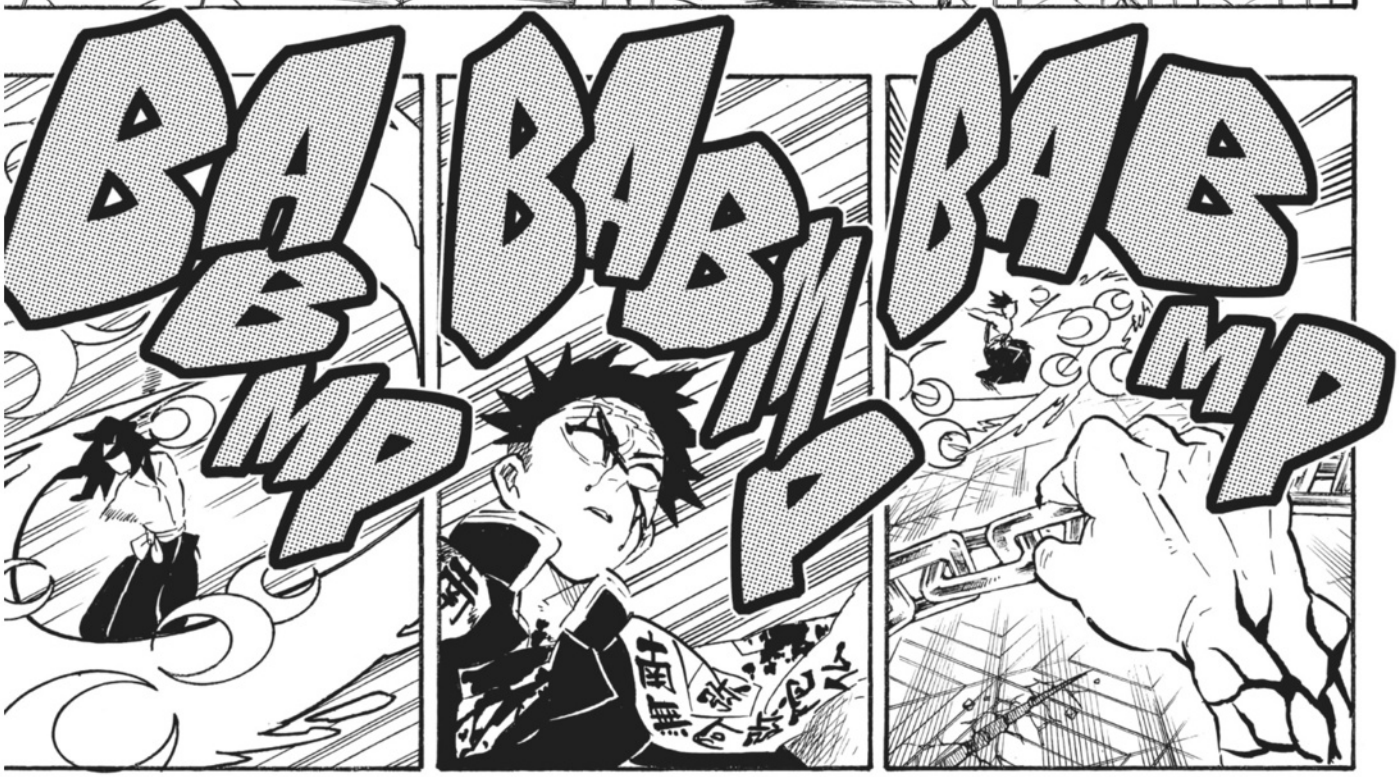

FIFTH...
STONE BREATHING
MOON BREATHING
SIXTEENTH FORM:
MOONBOW— HALF MOON

HE ISN'T RUNNING OUT OF TECHNIQUES.
HOW MANY MORE FORMS DOES HE HAVE?
...
IT'S STRANGE. HE'S TOO FAST.
I CAN'T ATTACK.
HE PREDICTS MY EVERY MOVE.
BUT IT'S TOO FAST.
IF I MESS UP, HE SHUTS ME DOWN BEFORE I CAN EVEN BEGIN AN ATTACK.
HE READS ME THE MOMENT I THINK OF LAUNCHING A TECHNIQUE.
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.

WHAT IS THIS DEMON SEEING? WHAT IS HE LOOKING AT?
IS HE USING SUPER-NATURAL POWERS?
DEMONS ...
...ARE AN ALTERATION OF THE HUMAN FORM.
I MUST FOCUS MY SENSES. DETERMINE THE TRUTH OF WHAT FEELS WRONG.
BREATHING TECHNIQUES LITERALLY MAKE HUMANS DEMONICALLY STRONG.
A HUMAN CAN DO WHAT A DEMON CAN DO.

THESE EYES THAT CAN-NOT SEE ARE EYES THAT SEE THROUGH TRUE NATURE.
HE WILL NOT MISLEAD ME.

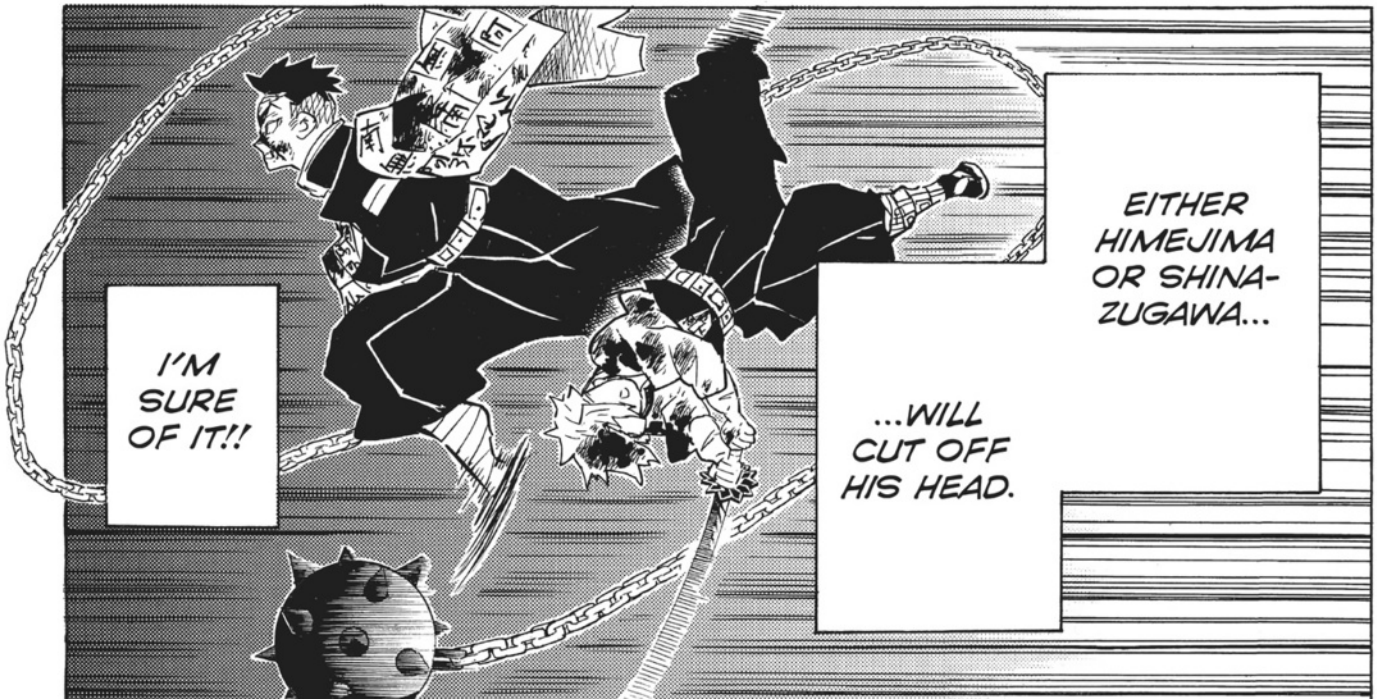

I HAVE TO OBSERVE MY LIMITS!!


BA BA BAM
BAMP
MP

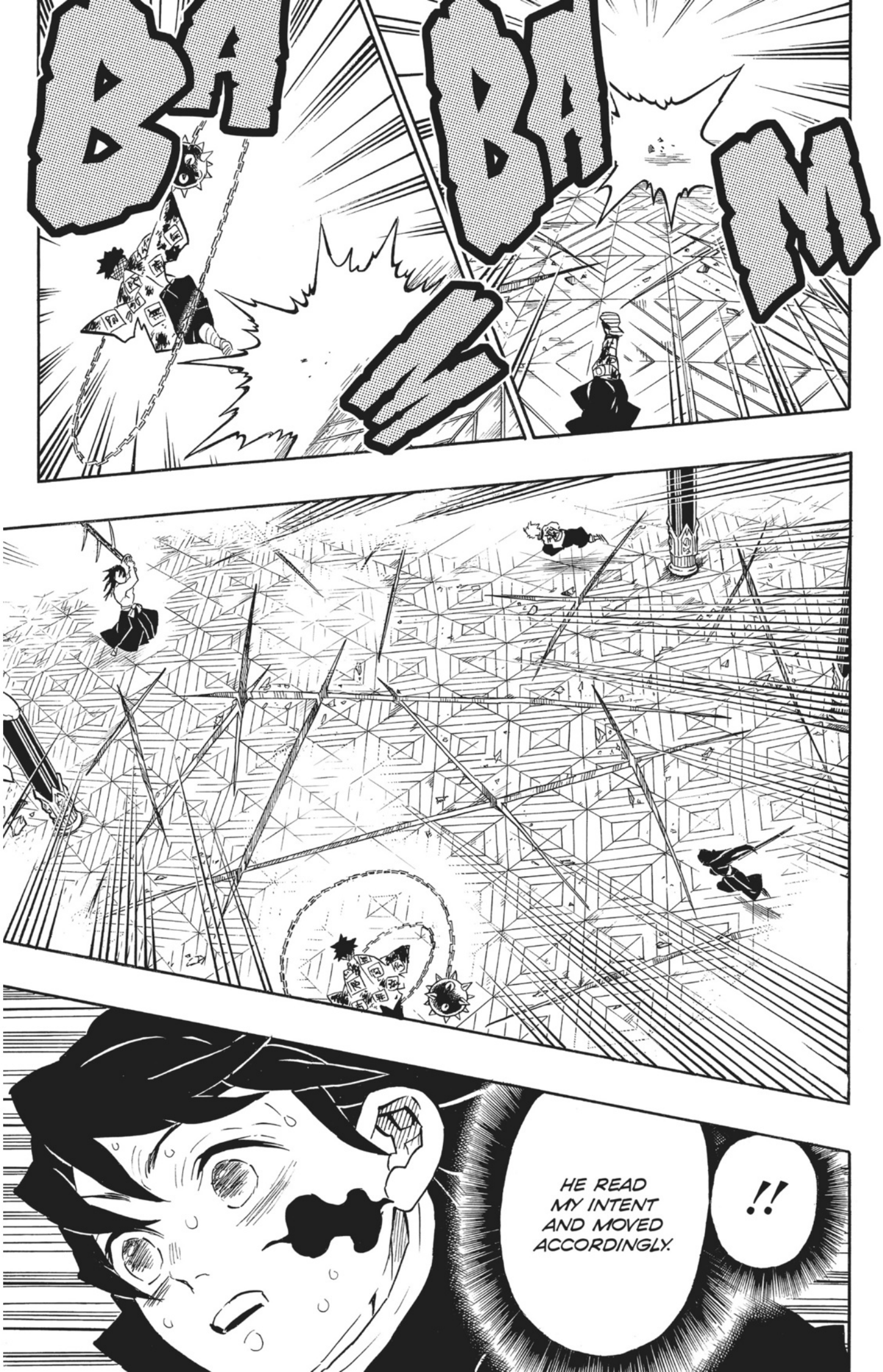
BAMP
WHAT IS THIS?!
I CAN SENSE HIS PULSE.
I FORMED A CLEAR IMAGE... THIS...

INSIDE...
GET INSIDE HIS REACH!
PERHAPS THIS IS IT!!

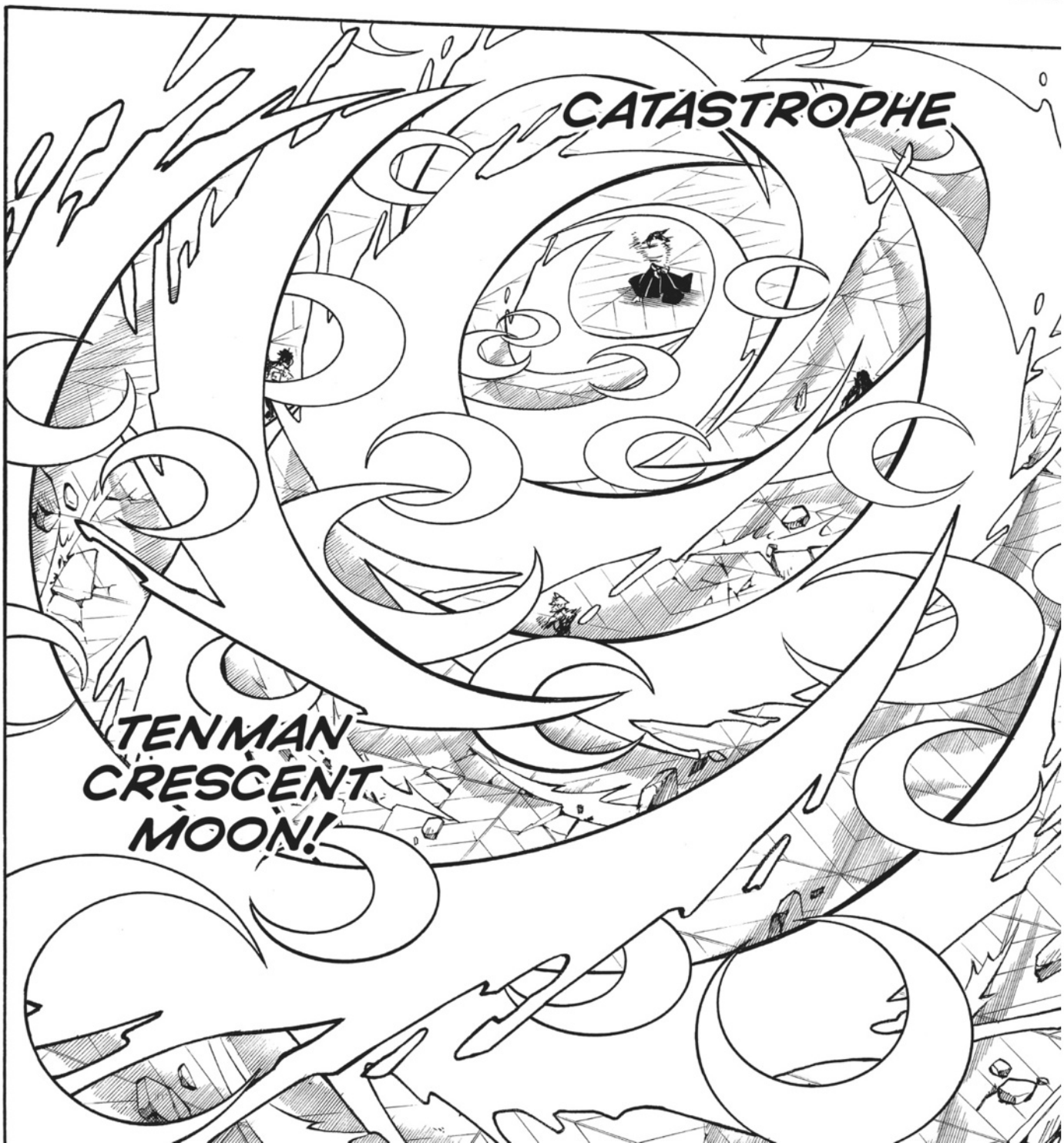
IF I CAN WEAKEN HIS ATTACKS EVEN A LITTLE...
A MOMENT IS ENOUGH. IF I CAN STOP THE MOVEMENT OF THIS UPPER RANK 1 FOR JUST A MOMENT...


I'M SURE OF IT!!
...WILL CUT OFF HIS HEAD.
EITHER HIMEJIMA OR SHINA-ZUGAWA...

I'VE LOST AN ARM AND I'M LOSING BLOOD, SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
WHILE I CAN STILL MOVE... WHILE I CAN STILL BE USEFUL... HURRY!!
FWOOO
SHINA-ZUGAWA !!
!
!!
FOO


BA
BA
M
!!
HE READ MY INTENT AND MOVED ACCORDINGLY.

MOON BREATHING
FOURTEENTH FORM:
HOWEVER, THIS WAY I CAN FINISH ALL THREE OFF AT ONCE.
HMM... THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONFRONT ME TOGETHER...


CATASTROPHE
TENMAN CRESCENT MOON!

GET IN, GET IN, GET IN, GET IN!!
SLIP PAST— INSIDE HIS REACH!!
THE GAPS IN THE OVERLAPPING ATTACKS!!
PASS THROUGH THE GAPS IN HIS ATTACKS!!

HE MUST HAVE THROWN IT THE MOMENT HE SWUNG HIS CHAIN.
THE ROSARY OF THE MAN WITH THE IRON BALL?!
HOW DID HE ELUDE MY FIELD OF VIEW?
DUST WHIRLWIND
CUTTER!!

WH
OF
AGAIN...
AH, I SEE.

WH
UD
KO
FF
I DIDN'T CUT HIS CAROTID ARTERY.

IT CANNOT BE... THOSE EYES.
THE ROSARY STRUCK ME, DULLING MY ATTACK'S JUST A LITTLE, BUT...
THIS WOUNDED CHILD...
...JUST BARELY DODGED MY ATTACK.
...THE SAME WORLD THAT I DO?
CAN THEY SEE...
AND HE...
HE BEGAN SEEING IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT.
THAT ONE TOO. HE SENSES IT.

...DECEIVED MY EYES.
HE CONTROLLED HIS OWN BLOOD CIRCULATION AND DISTURBED MY ATTACK.
SEVERAL UNEXPECTED THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
...NO ONE'S BLADE HAS REACHED MY NECK.
HOW-EVER...
DECEPTIONS AND DISTUR-BANCES...
...ARE POINTLESS ONCE I UNDERSTAND THEM.

SIXTEENTH FORM:
MOON BREATHING

GENYA ...
...TAKE THE SHOT!
I CAN'T LET GO!! EVEN IF HE CUTS ME TO PIECES!

DON'T MIND ME.

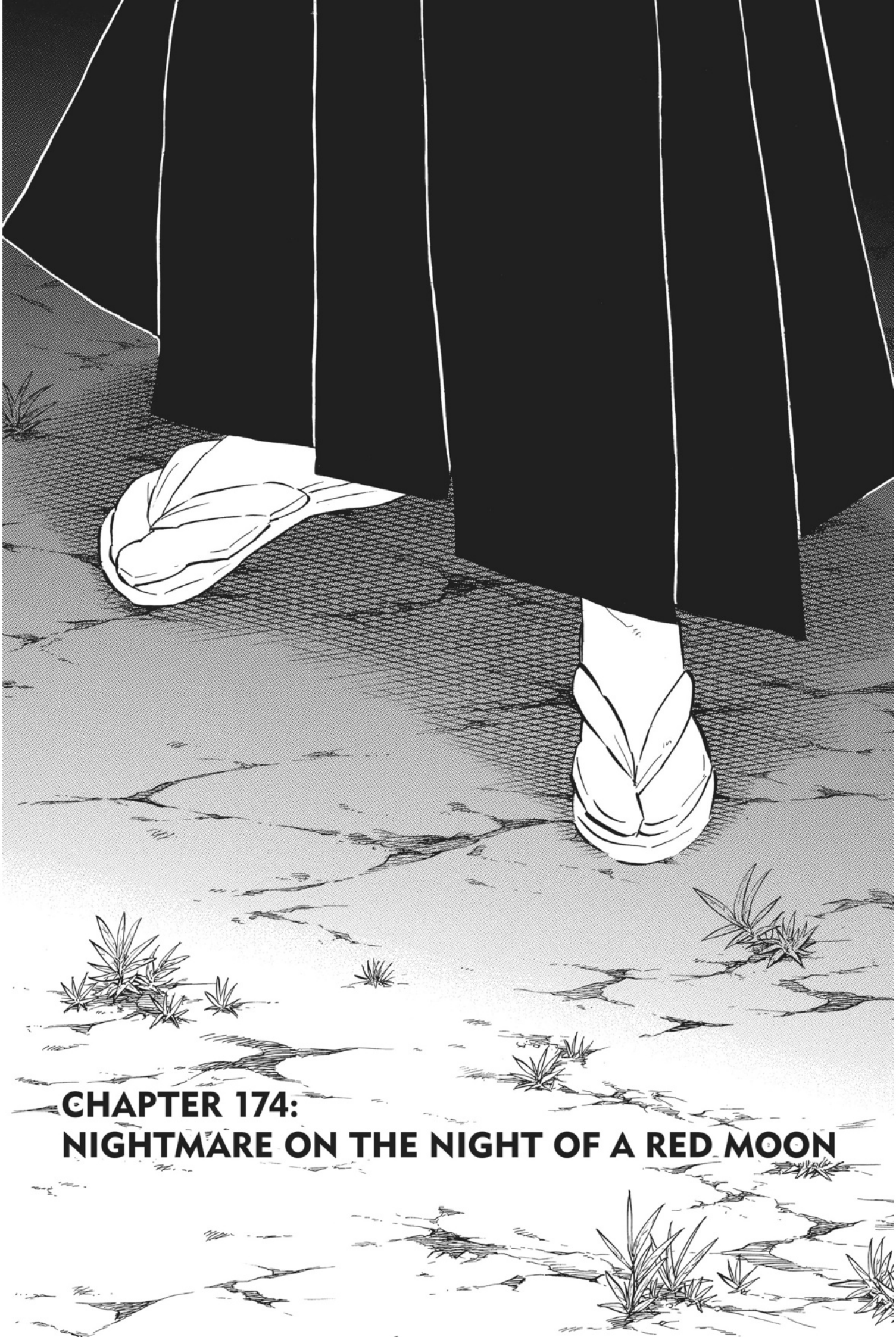
...SHOOT ME ALONG WITH HIM!
ONCE I'VE STOPPED THIS UPPER RANK 1 FROM MOVING...
YES!
I KNOW.
I KNOW.
DON'T HESITATE!
BLA

?!
HABA
HABA

From *Weekly Shonen Jump*,
combined issue No. 45, 2019

From *Weekly Shonen Jump*,
combined issue No. 22–23, 2019

From *Weekly Shonen Jump*,
combined issue No. 6–7, 2019



CHAPTER 174:
NIGHTMARE ON THE NIGHT OF A RED MOON

WHAT IS THIS?!
SPAK
DESPITE BEING DEFLECTED BY MY SWORD...
...LIKE LIVING THINGS, THEY TURNED AND SANK INTO MY BODY.

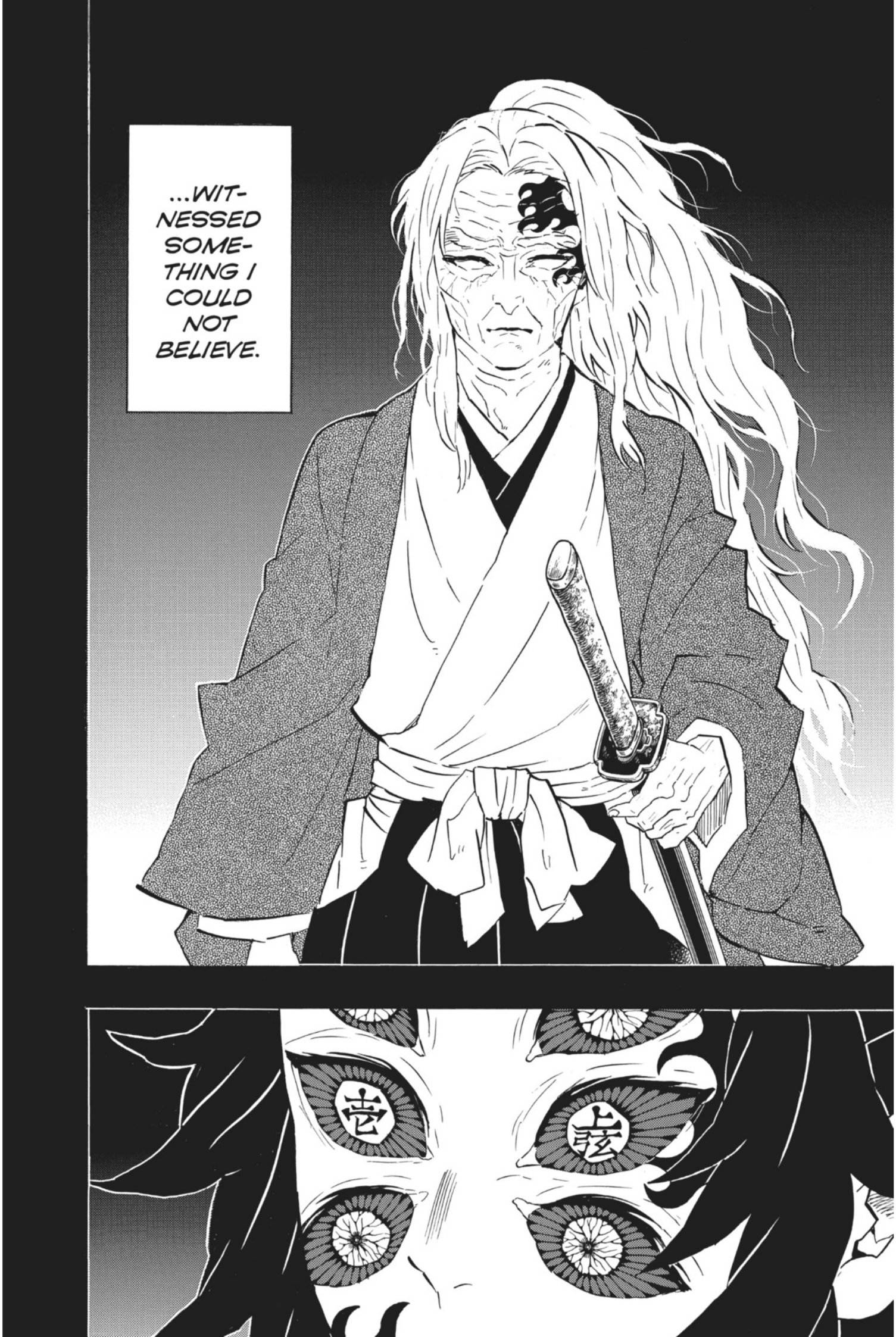
IT'S CHANG-ING!!
COULD THIS BE...
HIS PISTOL IS CHANGING FORM!
ハイ

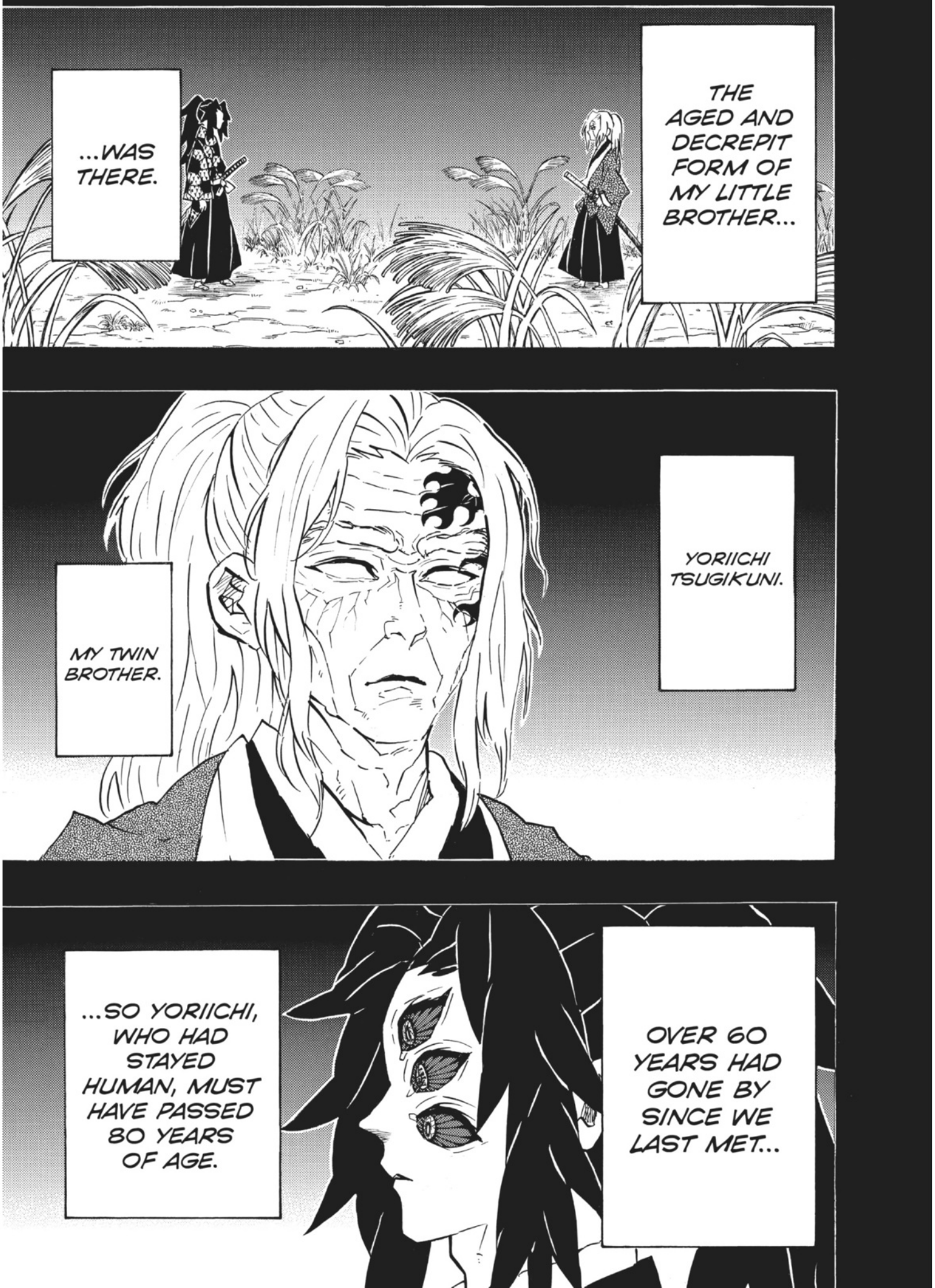
KRD
KET
I KNEW IT! A BLOOD DEMON ART!!
A TREE?! IT PUT DOWN ROOTS—I CAN'T MOVE!!

!!
SOME OF MY HAIR AND A PIECE OF MY BLADE...
HE ABSORBED PORTIONS OF ME!

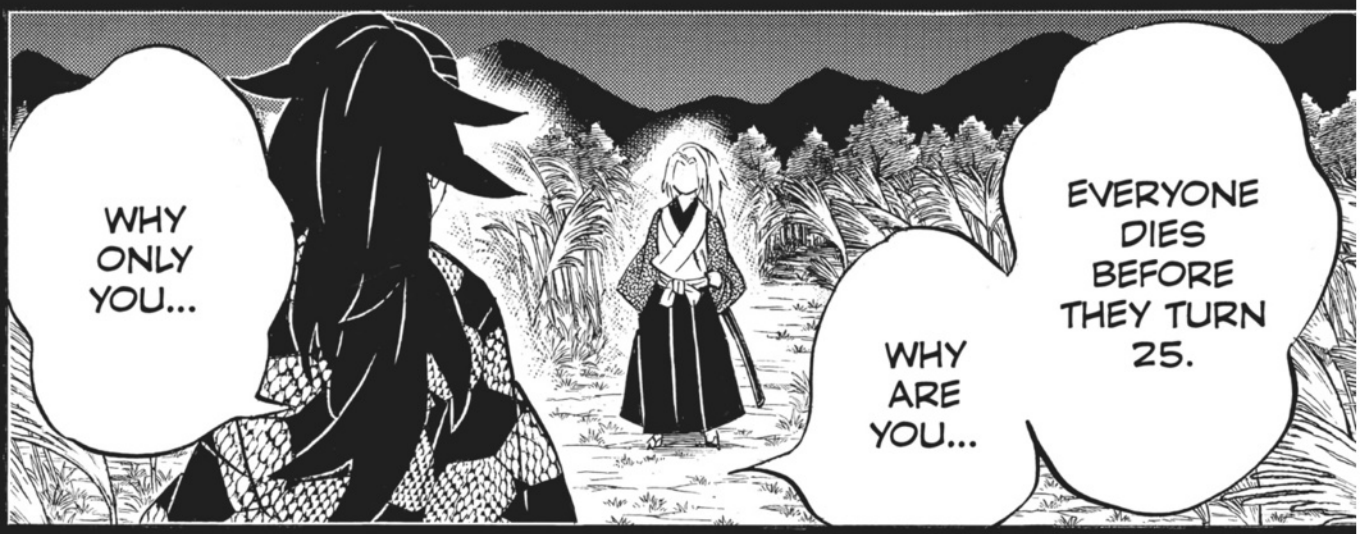
MY LIFE FEELS THREATENED AS THE CORE OF MY BODY FREEZES UP.
THIS DISTURBING FEELING RUNNING FROM THE CENTER OF MY BODY TO THE TOP OF MY HEAD.
...IS DETESTABLE.
THIS SENSATION OF MY COMPOSURE CRUMBLING UP FROM MY FEET...
IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES ...
...FROM 400 YEARS AGO.

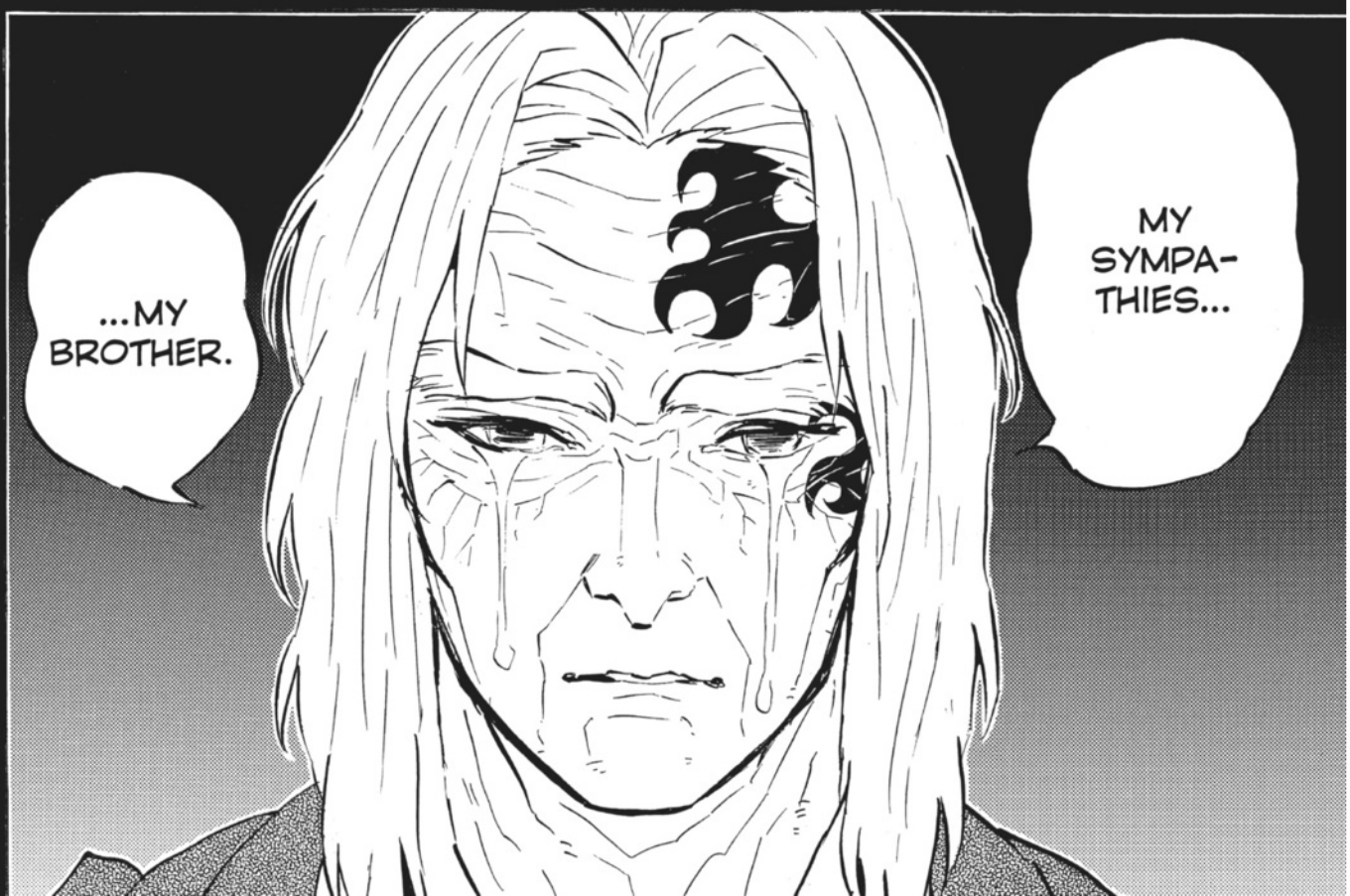
IT WAS 400 YEARS AGO.
ON THE NIGHT OF A RED MOON.
I...


...WIT-
NESSED
SOME-
THING I
COULD
NOT
BELIEVE.
壱
上弦

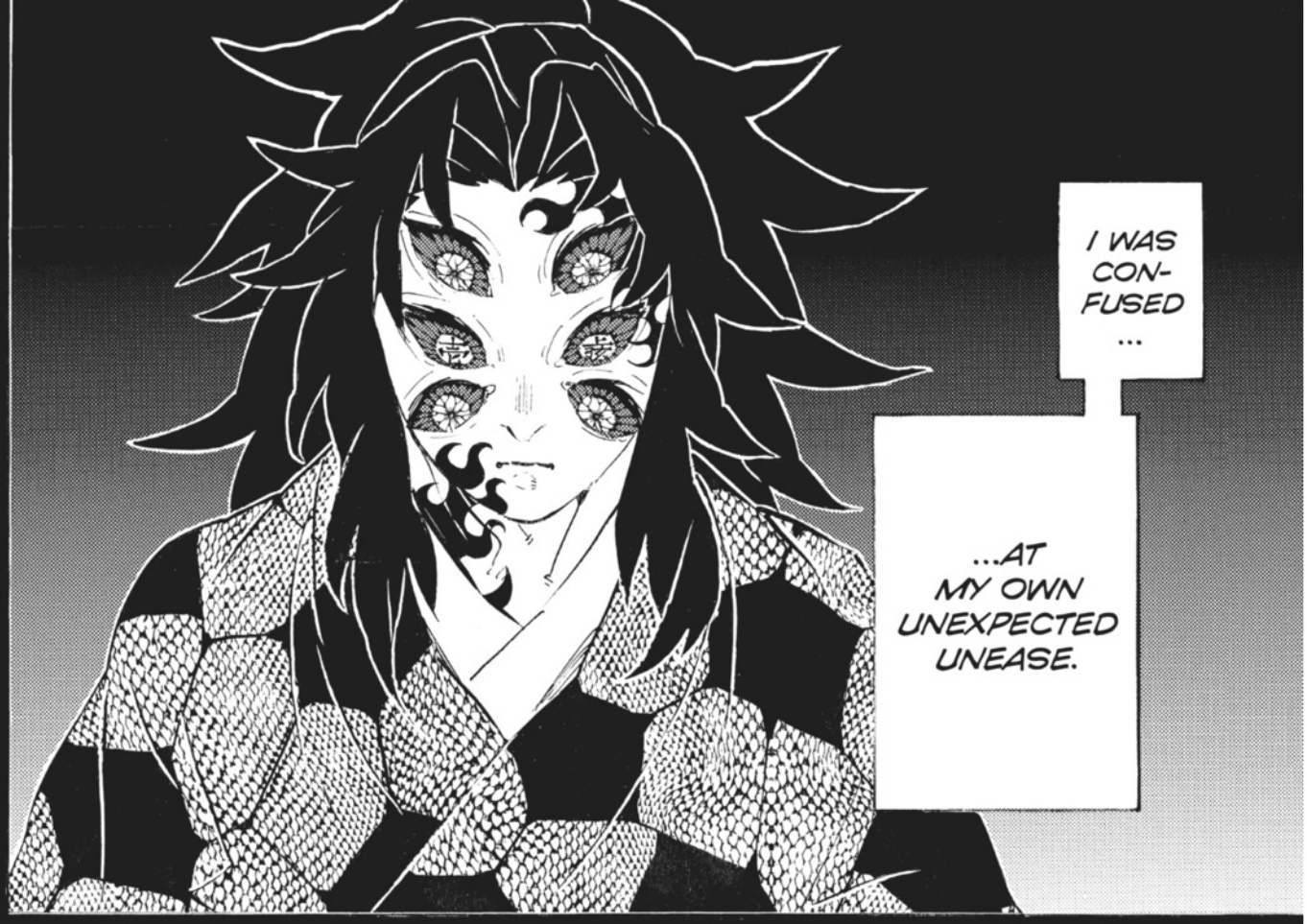

...WAS THERE.
THE AGED AND DECREPIT FORM OF MY LITTLE BROTHER...
MY TWIN BROTHER.
YORIICHI TSUGIKUNI.
...SO YORIICHI, WHO HAD STAYED HUMAN, MUST HAVE PASSED 80 YEARS OF AGE.
OVER 60 YEARS HAD GONE BY SINCE WE LAST MET...

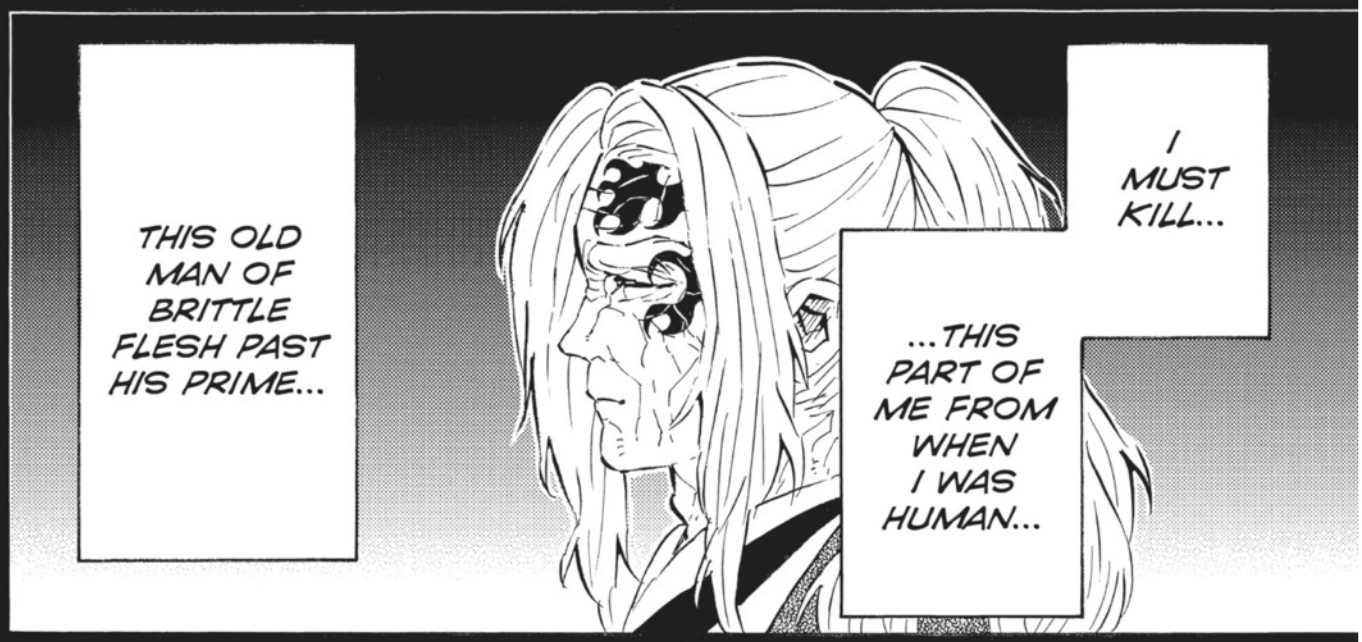
IMPOSSIBLE.
HOW ARE YOU ALIVE?


EVERYONE DIES BEFORE THEY TURN 25.
WHY ARE YOU...
WHY ONLY YOU...


MY SYMPA-THIES...
...MY BROTHER.

...THAT WAS ONCE MY LITTLE BROTHER...
THE OLD AND UGLY CREATURE ...
...HAD PITY FOR ME.
EVEN THOUGH 60 YEARS AGO HE HAD BEEN SUCH AN EYESORE.
BUT ...
...I WASN'T ANGRY.
...SO AT THE SIGHT OF HIM SHEDDING TEARS, SOMETHING WELLED UP IN ME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
MY BROTHER HAD NEVER SHOWN THE SLIGHTEST EMOTION...
THE VOICE CALLING ME "BROTHER" WAS TERRIBLY HOARSE.


I WAS CON-FUSED ...
...AT MY OWN UNEXPECTED UNEASE.


THIS OLD MAN OF BRITTLE FLESH PAST HIS PRIME...
I MUST KILL...
...THIS PART OF ME FROM WHEN I WAS HUMAN...

...AND I MUST CLEAVE ANYONE WHO TURNS A SWORD UPON ME.
HE WAS A DEMON SLAYER...

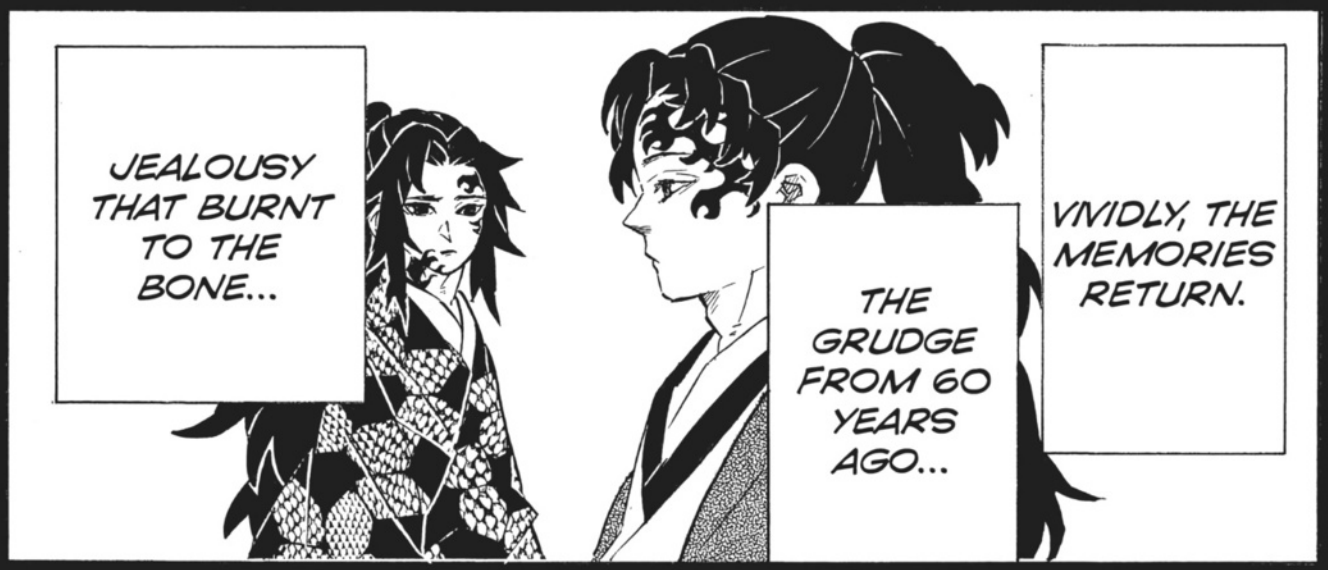
BUT HIS ODD SENTIMEN-TALITY...
...DISAP-PEARED THE NEXT MOMENT.
WHOP

WHAT
HIS INTIMIDATING AURA MADE THE AIR FEEL HEAVY...
...LIKE ROCKS RESTING ON MY SHOULDERS.
THERE WAS NO OPENING IN HIS STANCE.
HERE I COME.

SP
D
オマケ

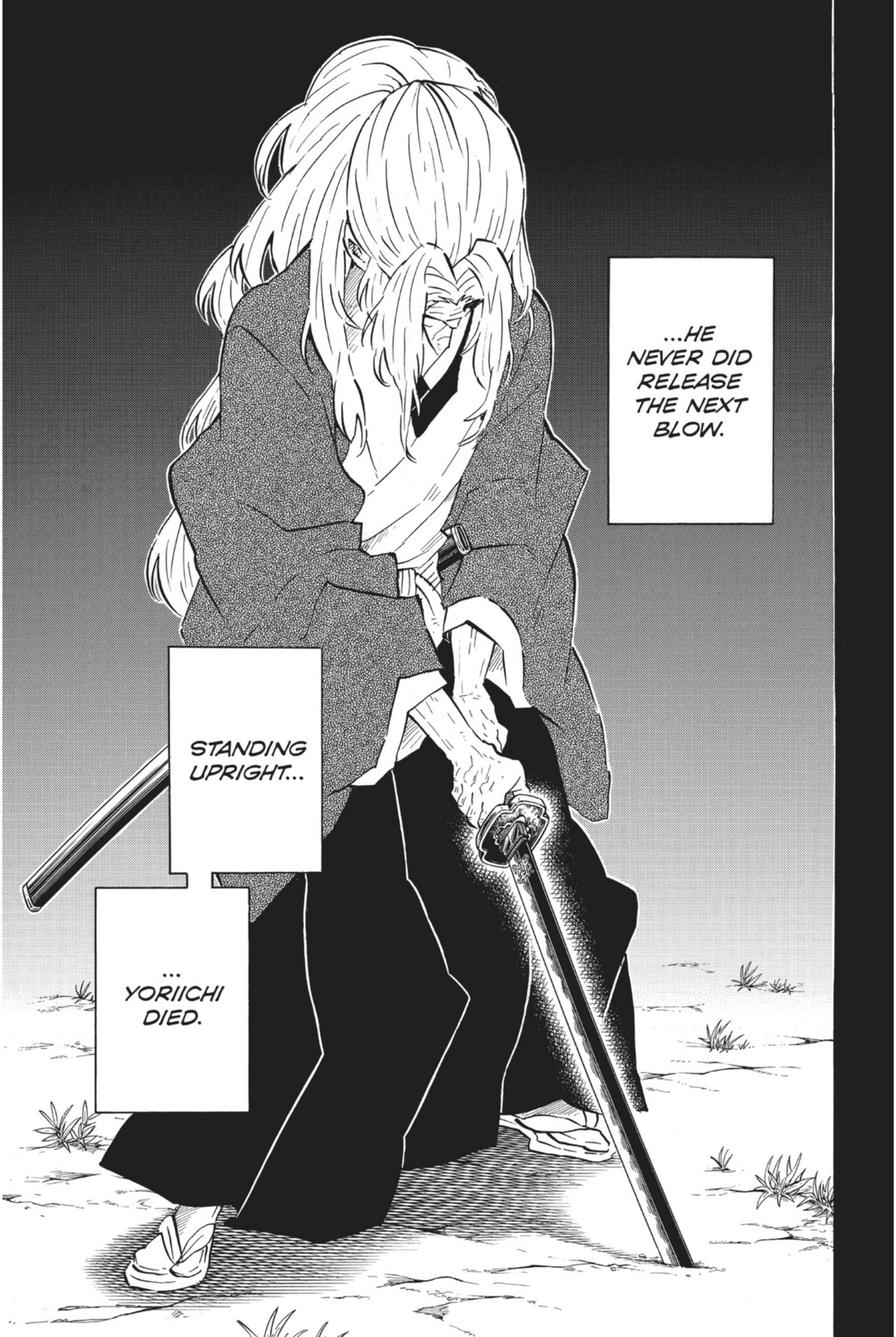
...ALWAYS THE SPECIAL ONE?
WHY WERE YOU...
YOU ARE MARKED, BUT YOU LIVED LONG.

THE TECH-
NIQUE THAT
OLD MAN
USED...
...HAD
THE SAME
SPEED AND
POWER AS
WHEN HE
WAS IN HIS
PRIME.


JEALOUSY
THAT BURNT
TO THE
BONE...
THE
GRUDGE
FROM 60
YEARS
AGO...
VIVIDLY, THE
MEMORIES
RETURN.

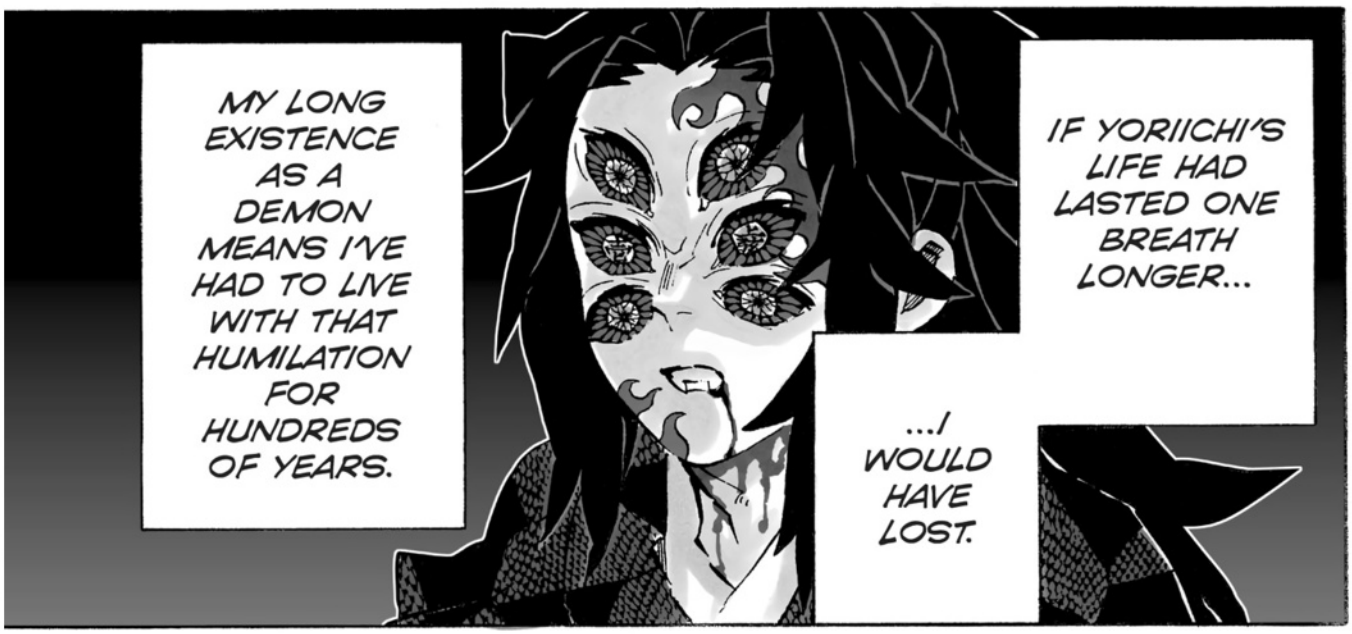
YOU LIVE
RECEIVING
THE FAVOR
OF THE
GODS UPON
YOURSELF.
YOU
ALONE ARE
OUTSIDE
THE LAWS
OF THIS
WORLD.

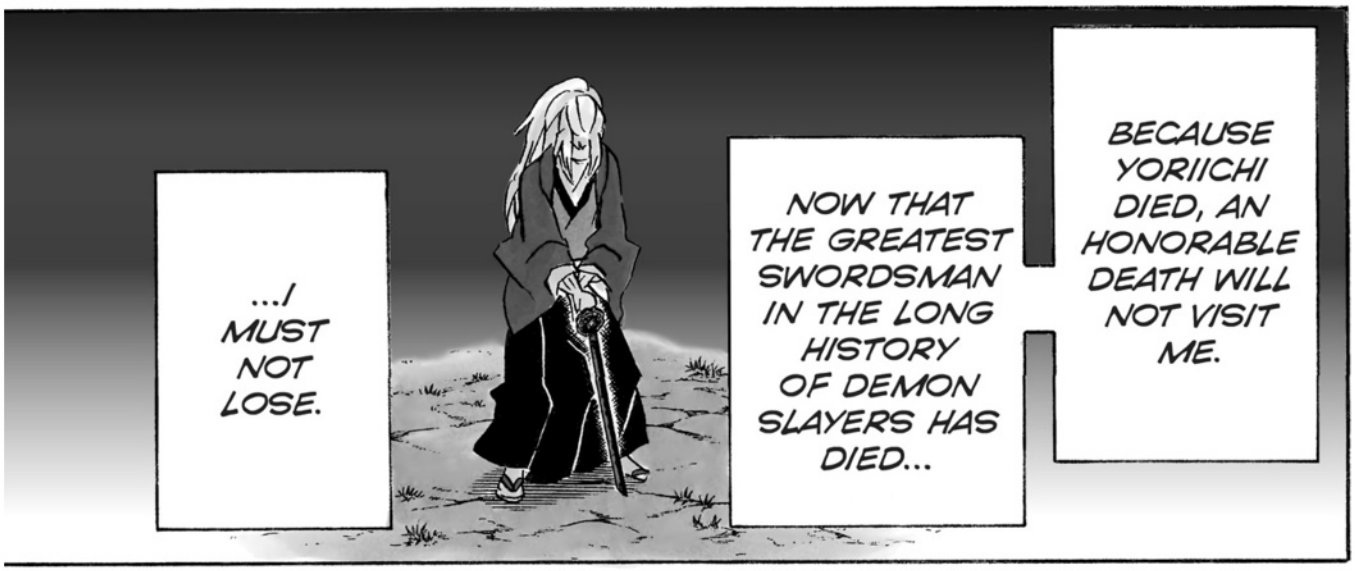
I WANT TO KILL YOU.
I HATE YOU.
...WOULD CHOP OFF MY HEAD.
BUT I WAS CERTAIN THAT HIS NEXT BLOW...
WITH A FEELING OF UNREST AND DEFEAT...
HIS SWORD TECHNIQUE, WHICH EVEN PRESSED LORD MUZAN.
...I FELT LIKE MY INSIDES MIGHT BURST.
IT WAS ...
HOW-EVER...
...NOTHING LESS THAN GODLY.

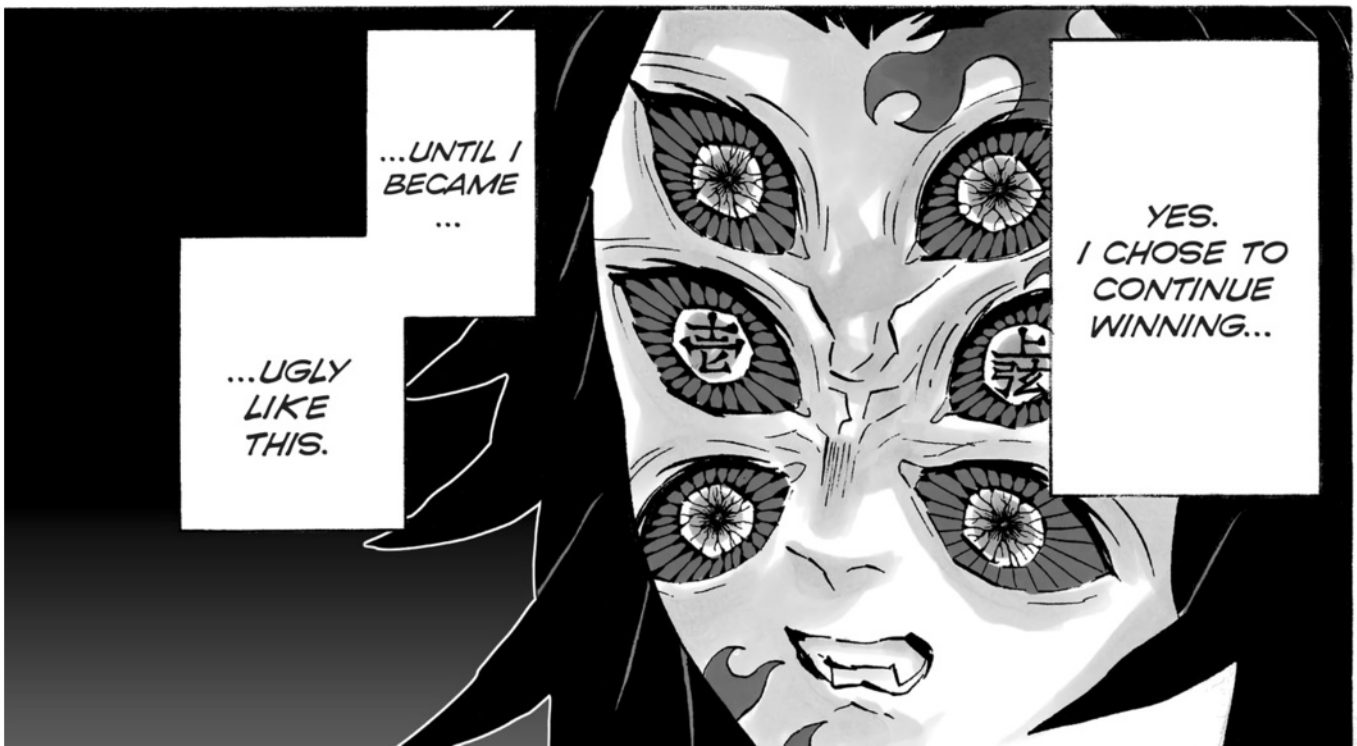

...HE NEVER DID RELEASE THE NEXT BLOW.
STANDING UPRIGHT...
... YORIICHI DIED.

Tanjiro's crow
Yours is over here !!
TRMBL
...are you all right?
Giyu...
TRMBL
Giyu's old man crow
RUB RUB
Agh...
No...
...
I'm Tanjiro!

CHAPTER 175: RESPECT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS


MY LONG EXISTENCE AS A DEMON MEANS I'VE HAD TO LIVE WITH THAT HUMILATION FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
IF YORIICHI'S LIFE HAD LASTED ONE BREATH LONGER...
...I WOULD HAVE LOST.


...I MUST NOT LOSE.
NOW THAT THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN THE LONG HISTORY OF DEMON SLAYERS HAS DIED...
BECAUSE YORIICHI DIED, AN HONORABLE DEATH WILL NOT VISIT ME.



CHAPTER 175:
RESPECT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Hey...
Hey...
Not that way!
No, not that way, Kanzaburo!
GRAB
GASP
Master is calling...
TATMP

...HE MADE AS MANY ATTACKS AS HE HAS BLADES!
HE SPROUTED BLADES ALL OVER HIS BODY!!
AND WITHOUT SWINGING ...
HE'S A MONSTER ...
NO... I'M GOING TO DIE. IT'S HOPELESS...
AND I HAD SO MUCH TROUBLE AGAINST JUST ONE SWORD BEFORE!
I MUST... PROTECT... EVERYONE...
PROTECT ...

NO.
HIMEJIMA AND SHINAZUGAWA WILL BOTH FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
BUT I MUST NOT LET THEM DIE.

MUZAN IS STILL LEFT.
FOR EVERYONE ELSE'S SAKE, I MUST PROTECT THEM.

I MUST... DO SOME-THING.
HE'S SETTING UP ANOTHER ATTACK.
BEFORE ...
...DIE.
.../...

THE BLADE... IS RED?!
WHAT IS THIS?!
I CAN'T MOVE!
THIS INTENSE PAIN... IT'S LIKE MY INSIDES ARE ON FIRE!

TSUWA

DUE TO EVERY-ONE'S ATTACKS ...
...HE CAN'T PAY ATTEN-TION TO ME...
THEY'RE STILL THERE...
MY FLESH BULLETS... INSIDE HIS BODY..
BLOOD DEMON...
...ART...

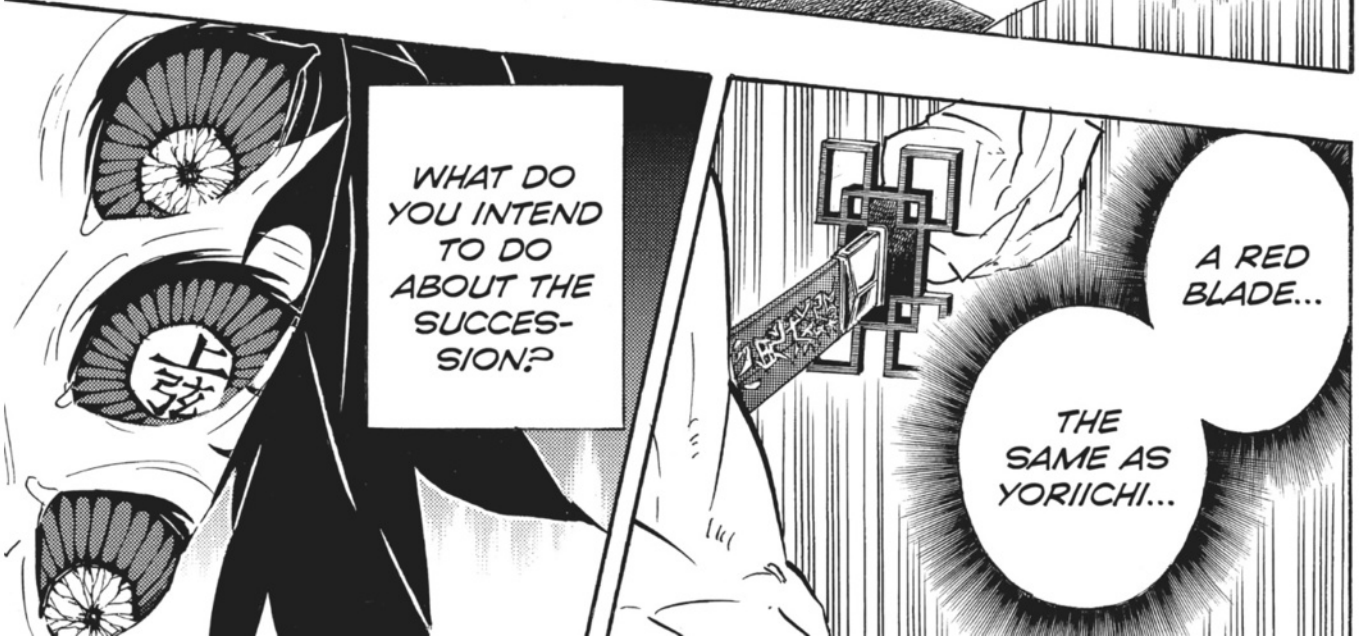
BK
OK
FIXED IN PLACE AGAIN? HOW ANNOYING!
I'LL CUT IT IN HALF AND FINISH HIM OFF!
I CAN'T USE A TECH-NIQUE!!!

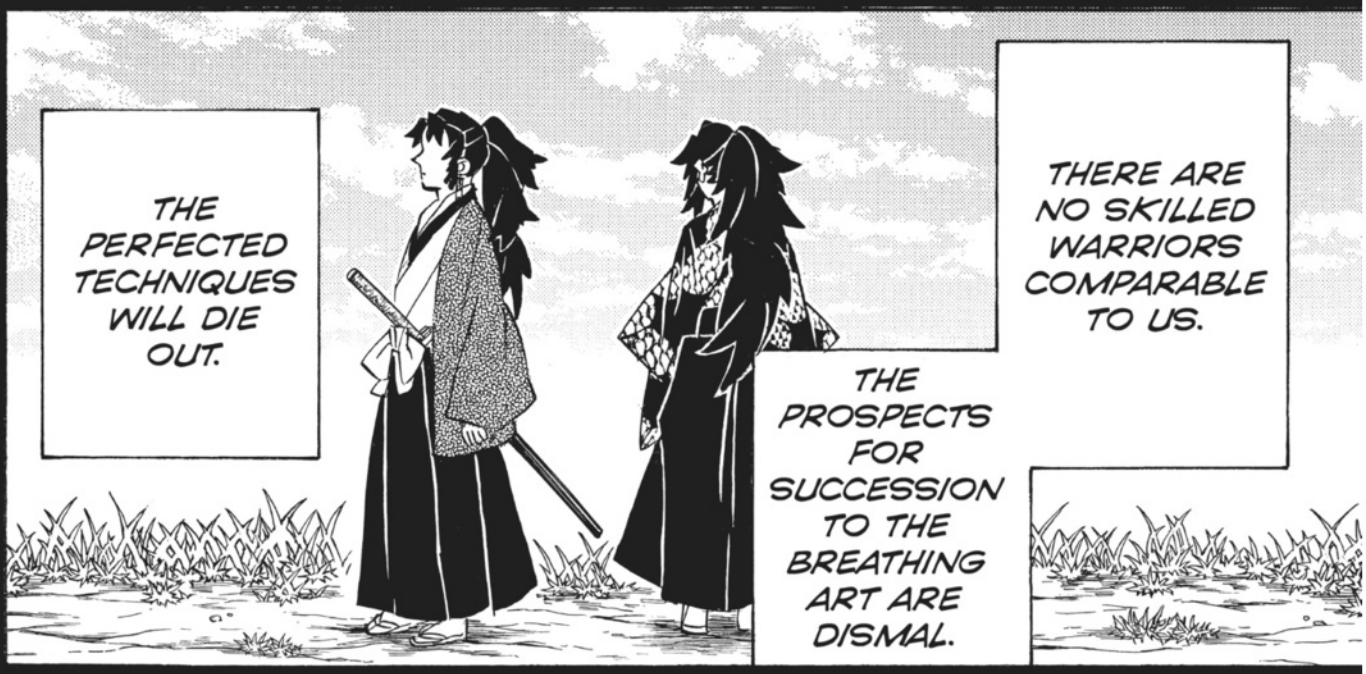
BASH

DEZETH
GAAAH!
RAAAH!
WHAT A TOUGH NECK!
OUR ATTACKS STILL AREN'T ENOUGH!!
WISH

ｽﾊﾞﾘ

I CAN'T USE A TECHNIQUE!! THE TREE IN MY BACK IS SUCKING UP MY BLOOD AND EXTENDING A TRUNK!
MY BODY'S SEIZING UP DUE TO THE INTENSE PAIN!! BECAUSE OF THE RED KATANA!!


A RED BLADE...
THE SAME AS YORIICHI...
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT THE SUCCES-SION?


THE PERFECTED TECHNIQUES WILL DIE OUT.
THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSION TO THE BREATHING ART ARE DISMAL.
THERE ARE NO SKILLED WARRIORS COMPARABLE TO US.

WE ARE MERELY ONE FRAGMENT OF HUMANKIND'S LONG, LONG HISTORY.
...WE ARE NOT THAT GREAT.
MY BROTHER ...

THEY MAY COME TO REACH THE SAME PLACE.
AT THIS MOMENT, THOSE WHOSE TALENTS WILL SURPASS OURS ARE UTTERING THEIR FIRST CRIES.

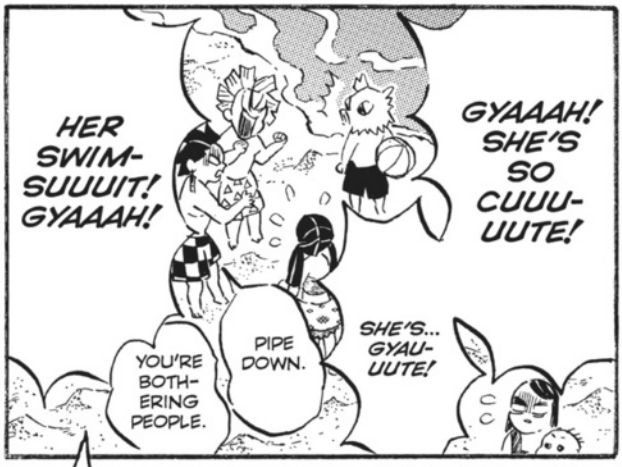
WHAP
SOMEDAY ...
...THE CHILDREN NOW BEING BORN...
GAAAH!
IRON CLASHING AGAINST IRON, TURNING RED...!!

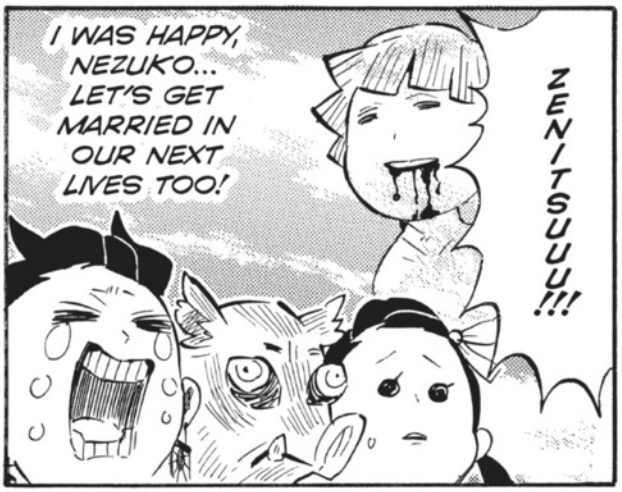
...CAN DRAW THE CURTAIN OF LIFE CLOSED WITHOUT UNEASE AT ANY TIME.
THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.
WE...
... BROTHER ?
DOES THAT NOT EXHILARATE YOU...
GRAAAAAHH !!!

...AND ASCEND...
...WILL SURPASS US...
AOOO

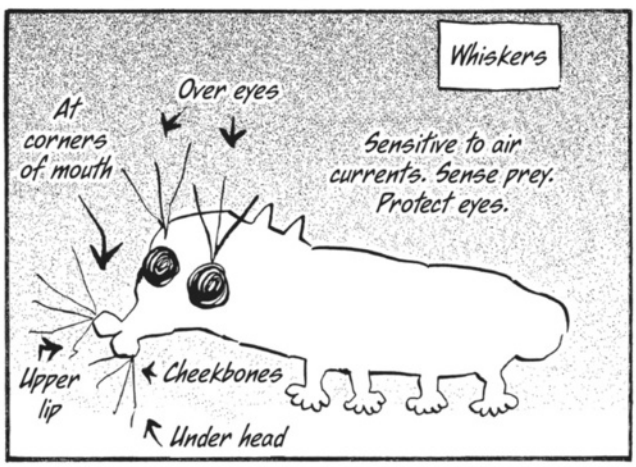
CHAPTER 176: SAMURAI

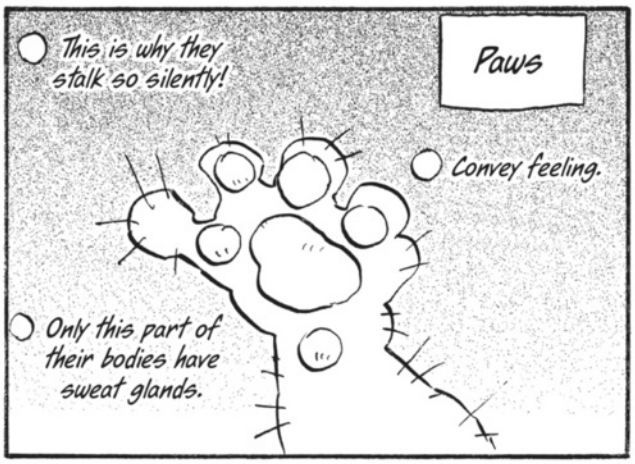
NEZUKO'S SWIMSUIT

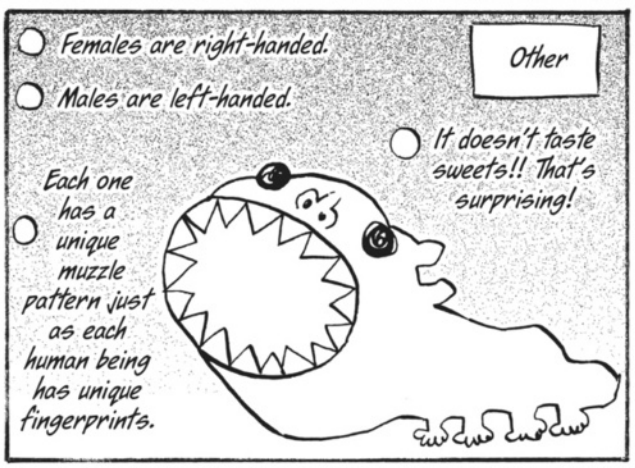




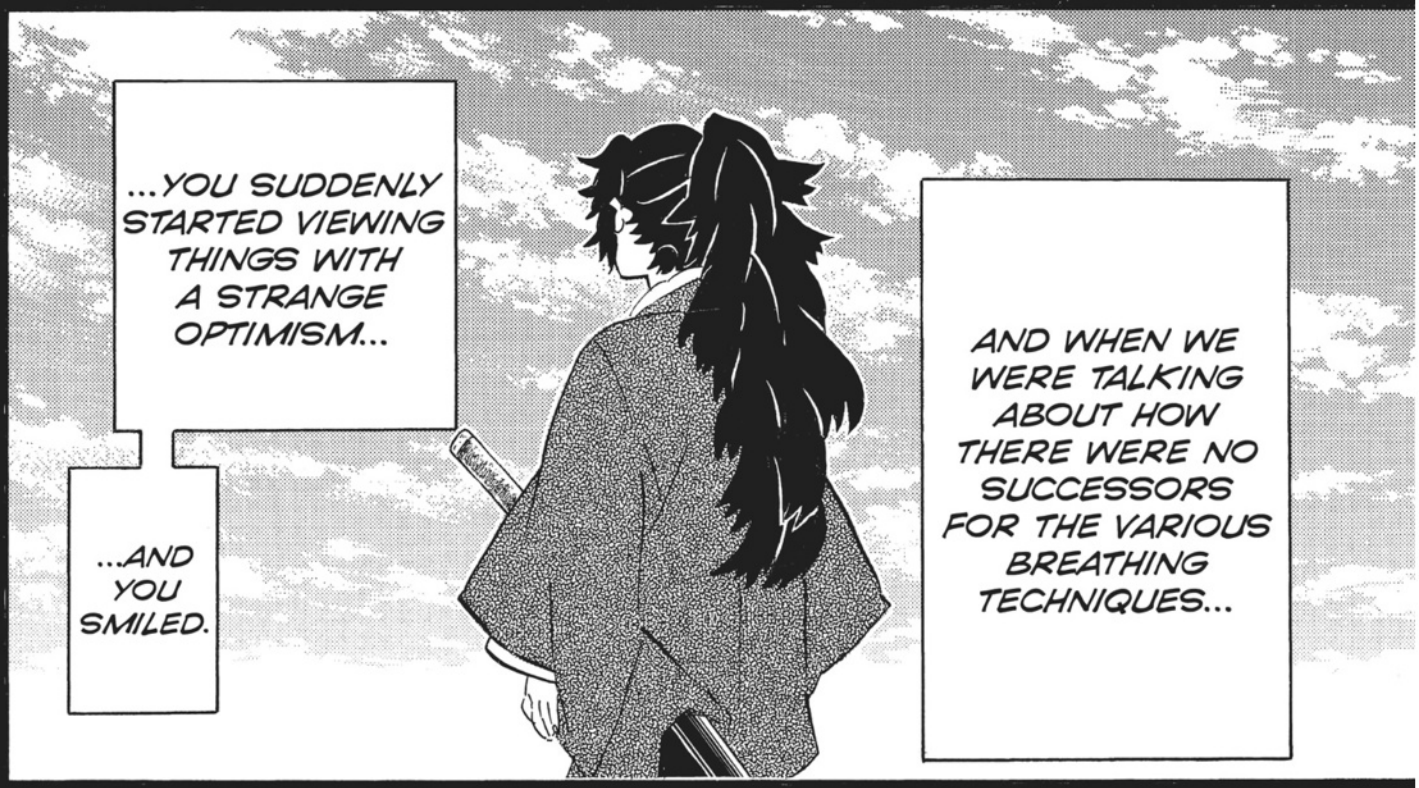
TANJIRO'S RESEARCH PROJECT





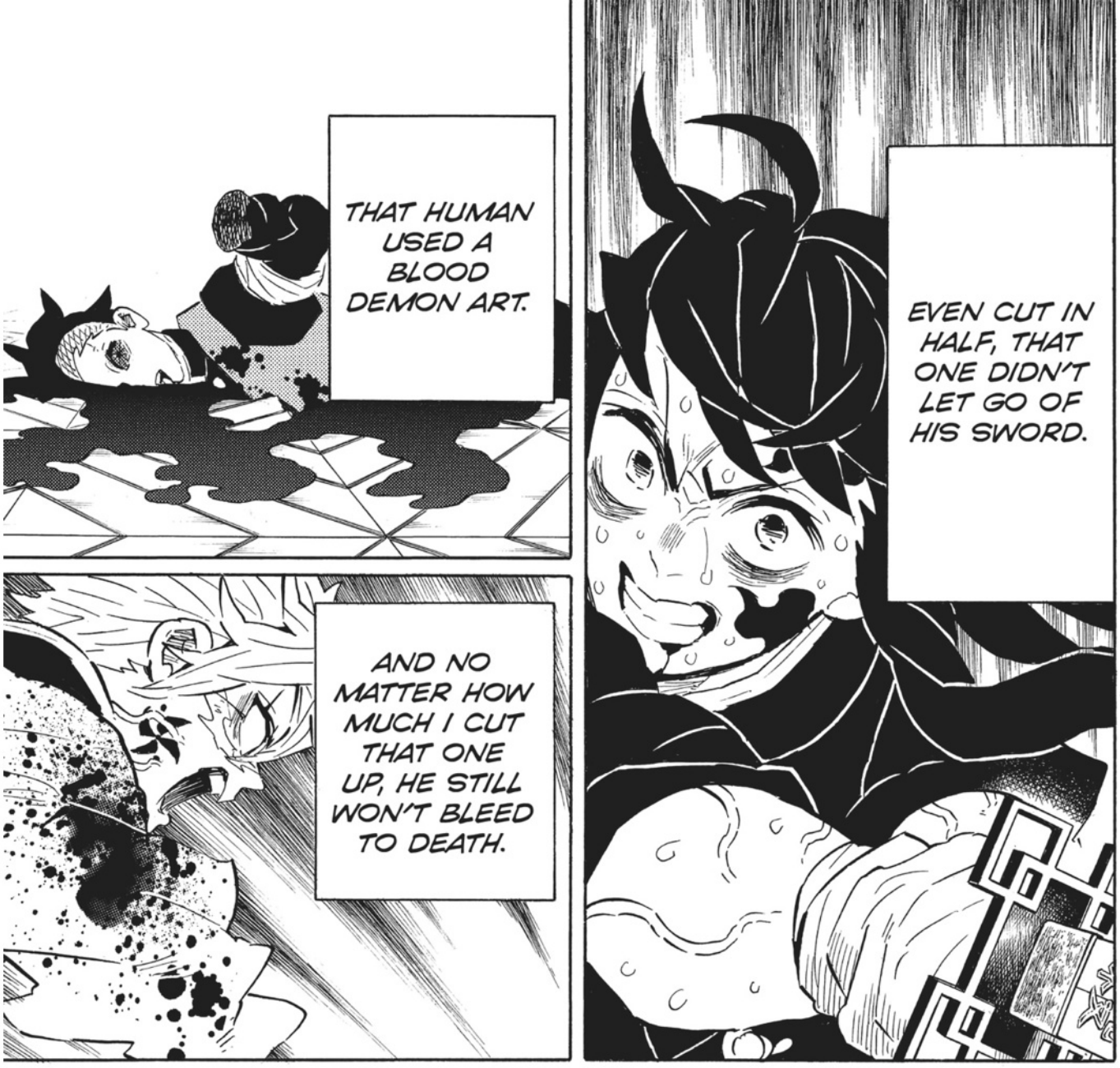

Other
Females are right-handed.
Males are left-handed.
It doesn't taste sweets!! That's surprising!
Each one has a unique muzzle pattern just as each human being has unique fingerprints.

FROM *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP*, COMBINED ISSUE 36–37, 2019.

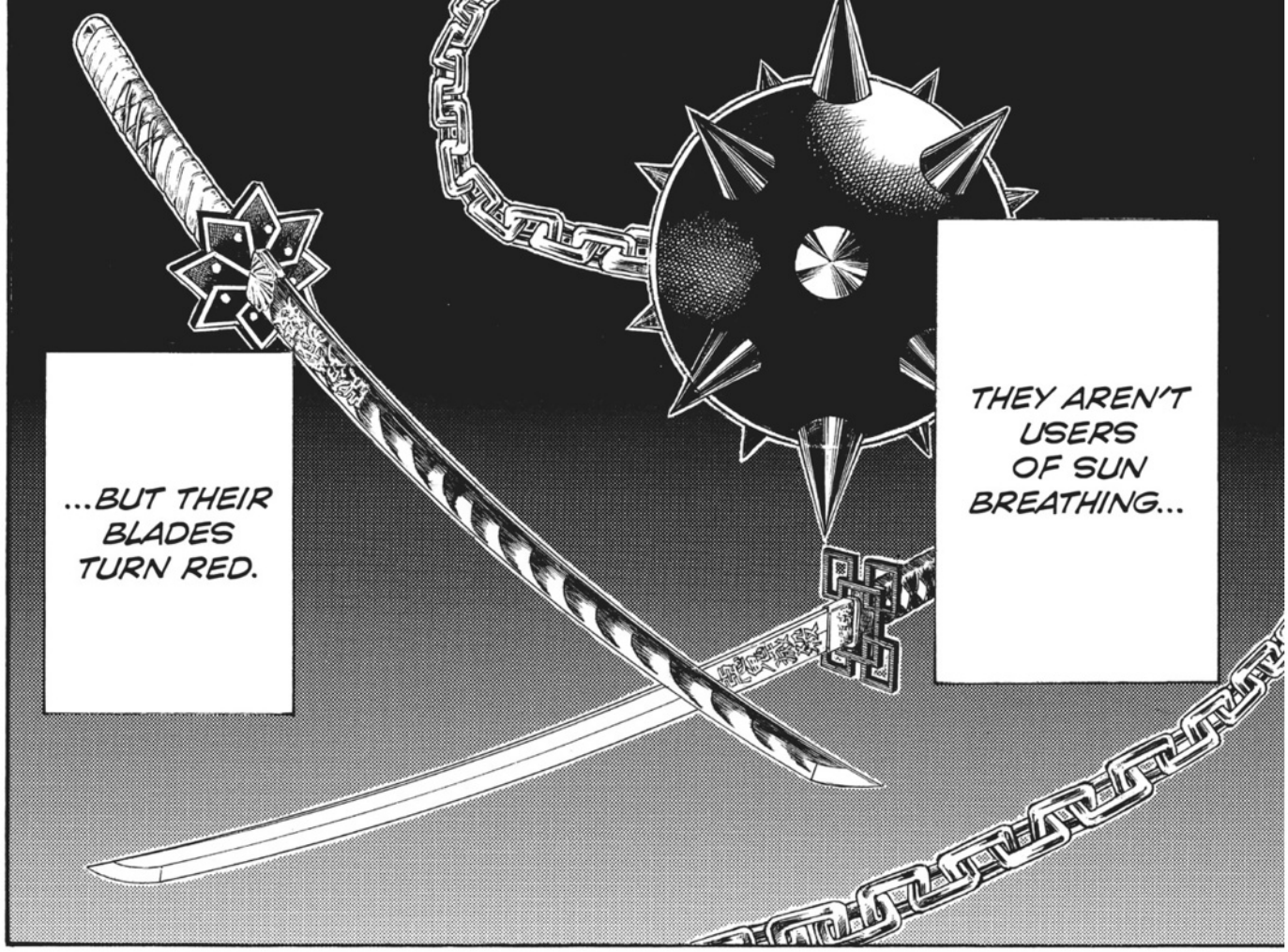

...YOU SUDDENLY STARTED VIEWING THINGS WITH A STRANGE OPTIMISM...
...AND YOU SMILED.
AND WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW THERE WERE NO SUCCESSORS FOR THE VARIOUS BREATHING TECHNIQUES...

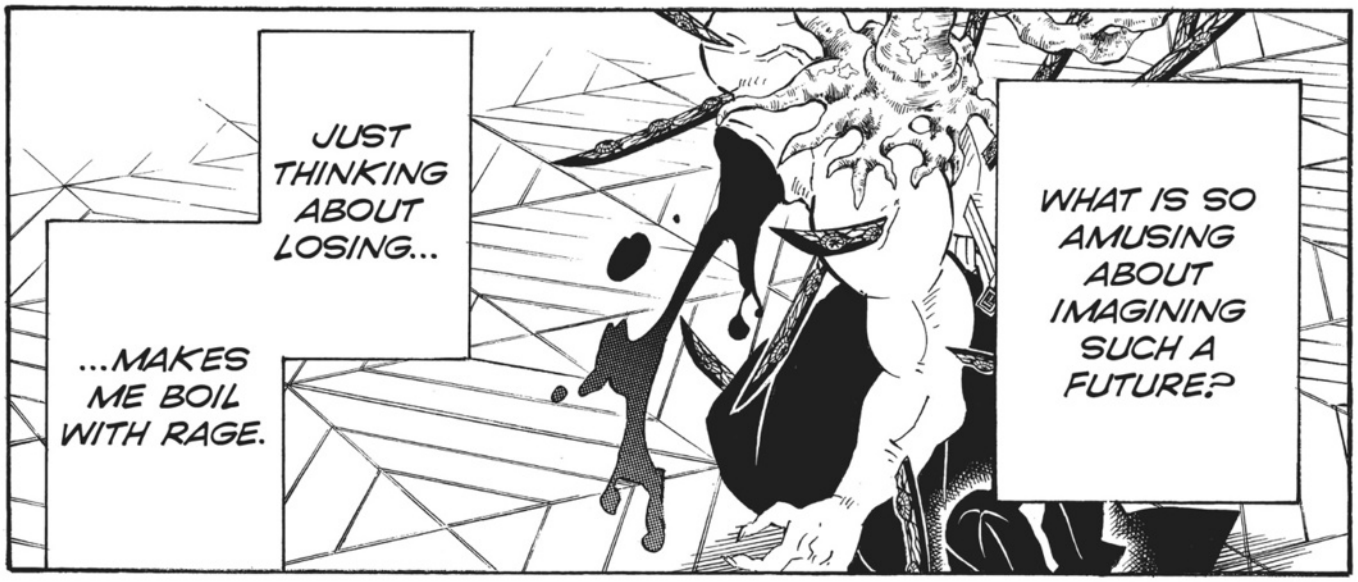
I FELT SICK WITH DISGUST AND IRRITATION.
...THAT ONLY OUR GENERA-TION WAS SPECIAL.
IN MY CONCEIT I BELIEVED...

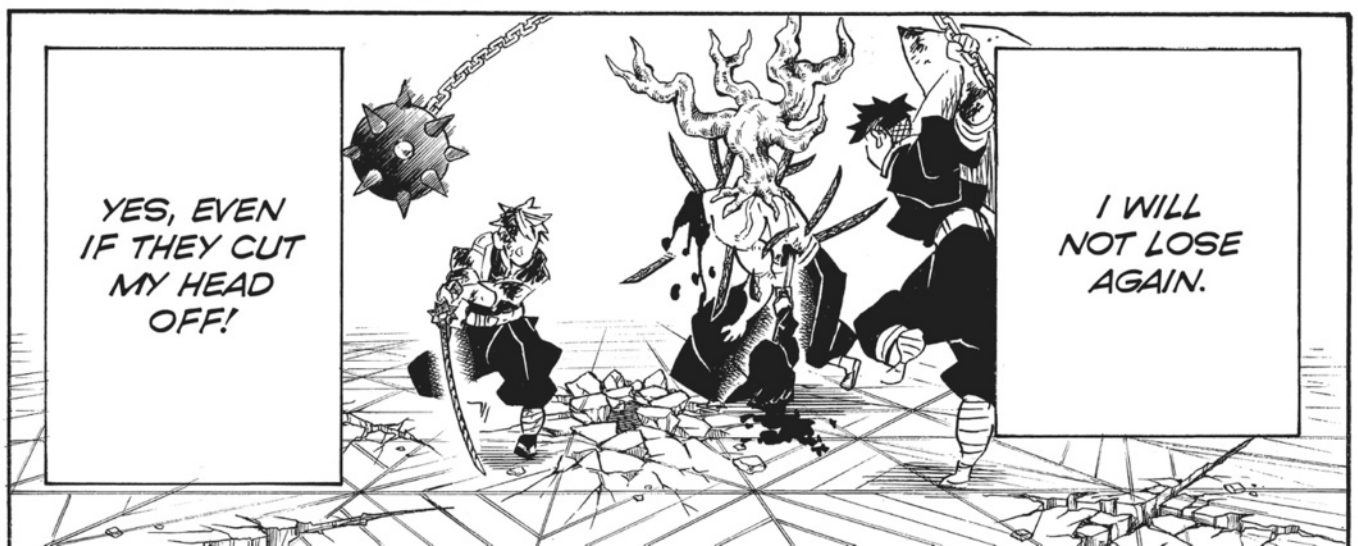
WHAT DID YOU FIND SO AMUSING?


THAT HUMAN USED A BLOOD DEMON ART.
EVEN CUT IN HALF, THAT ONE DIDN'T LET GO OF HIS SWORD.
AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CUT THAT ONE UP, HE STILL WON'T BLEED TO DEATH.

HE MOVES IN WAYS THAT SURPASS HIS LIMITS.
AND THAT ONE'S SPEED OF GROWTH IS COMPARABLE TO A DEMON'S.


...BUT THEIR BLADES TURN RED.
THEY AREN'T USERS OF SUN BREATHING...


JUST THINKING ABOUT LOSING...
...MAKES ME BOIL WITH RAGE.
WHAT IS SO AMUSING ABOUT IMAGINING SUCH A FUTURE?


YES, EVEN IF THEY CUT MY HEAD OFF!
I WILL NOT LOSE AGAIN.

GLUP
HE STOPPED HIS BLEEDING!!
DON'T LET UP YOUR ATTACKS!!
KEEP LAYING IT ON!!
SHINAZUGAWA !!
...DON'T LET TOKITO AND GENYA'S LIVES GO TO WASTE!!
NO MATTER WHAT...

GRAAAH!! BRING IT ON!
I'LL CUT YOU UP UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT!!
PRIMARY GALE SLASH!
WIND BREATH-ING
EIGHTH FORM:

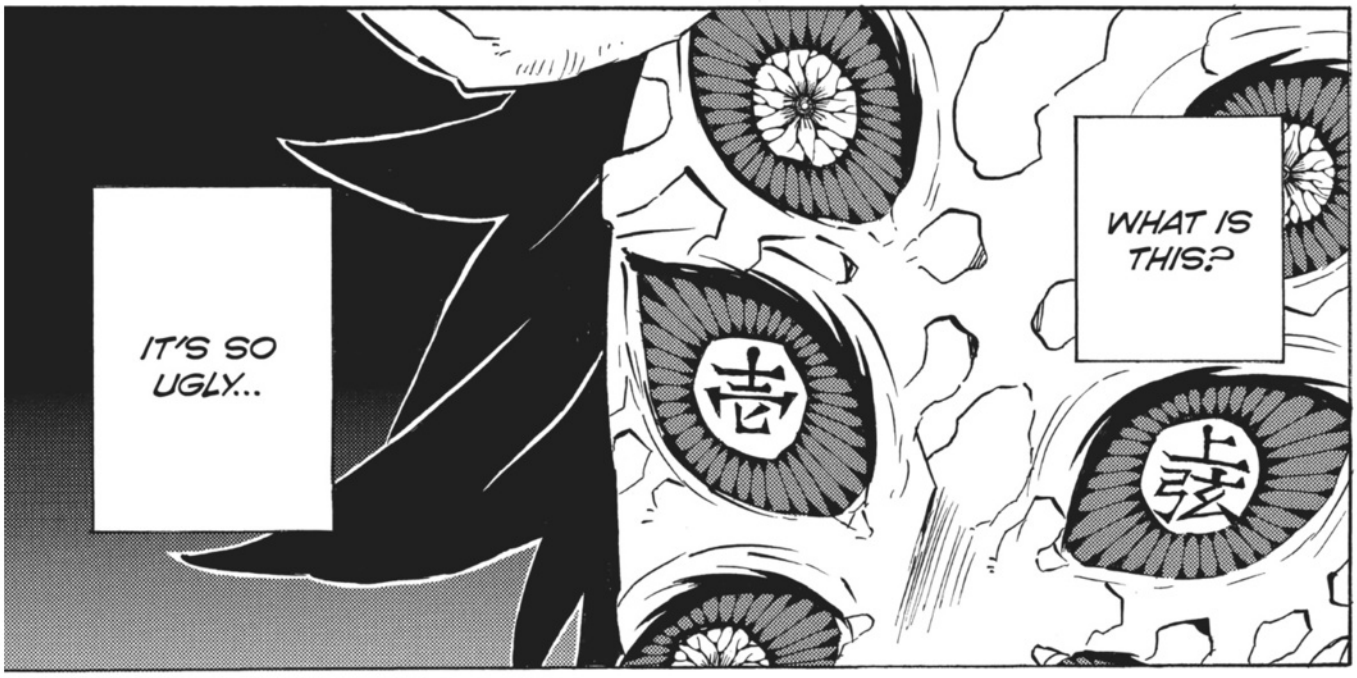
FIFTH FORM:
STONE BREATHING
南無阿弥
ARCS OF JUSTICE!

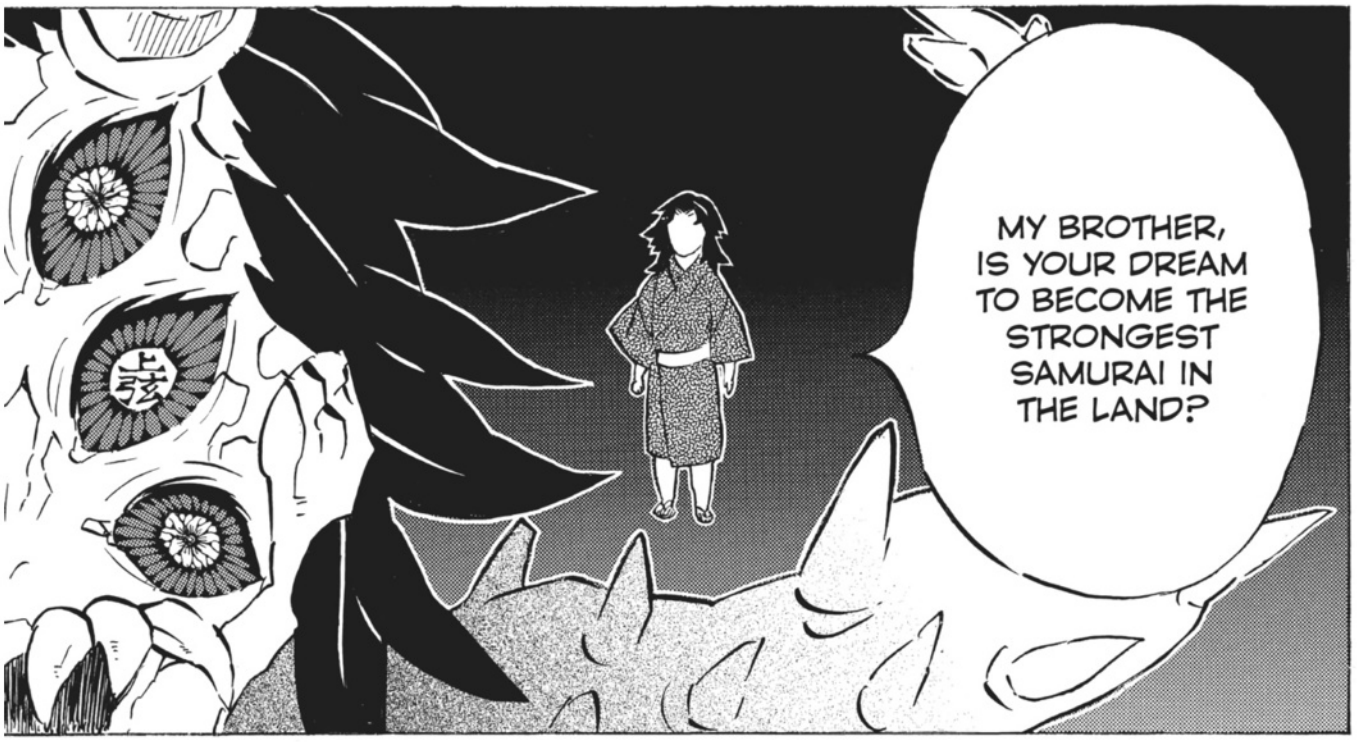
GK GK GK GK
I'M NOT DEAD YET.
MY BODY ISN'T FALLING APART.
IF I PULL THIS OUT, I CAN STILL REGENERATE!
...AND HIS BLOOD DEMON ART WILL SOON DISAPPEAR.
THE EFFECTS OF HIS SWORD...
THEY ARE.

THEN I WILL OVERCOME DEATH BY DECAPITATION!
SH
!!
GRRR

KEEP ATTACKING!! HIS HEAD'S JUST COME OFF, SO HIS BODY MUST BE FRAGILE!!
THAT BASTARD REGENERATED HIS HEAD!
DAMMIT! ARRGH!
HE ISN'T REGENERATING AS FAST AS MUZAN CAN!!
GO FOR THE THROAT— AGAIN AND AGAIN!

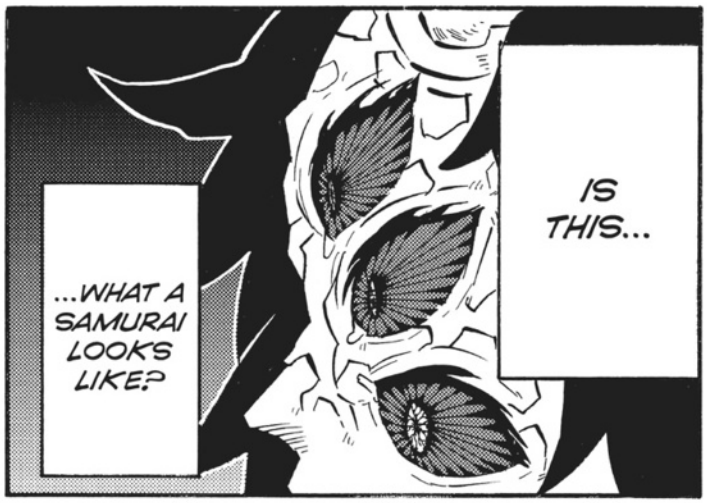
...IS MEANING-LESS!
I OVER-CAME IT.
NOW ANY KIND OF ATTACK OTHER THAN SUNLIGHT...
...NO ONE CAN BEAT—
NOW...


WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S SO UGLY...

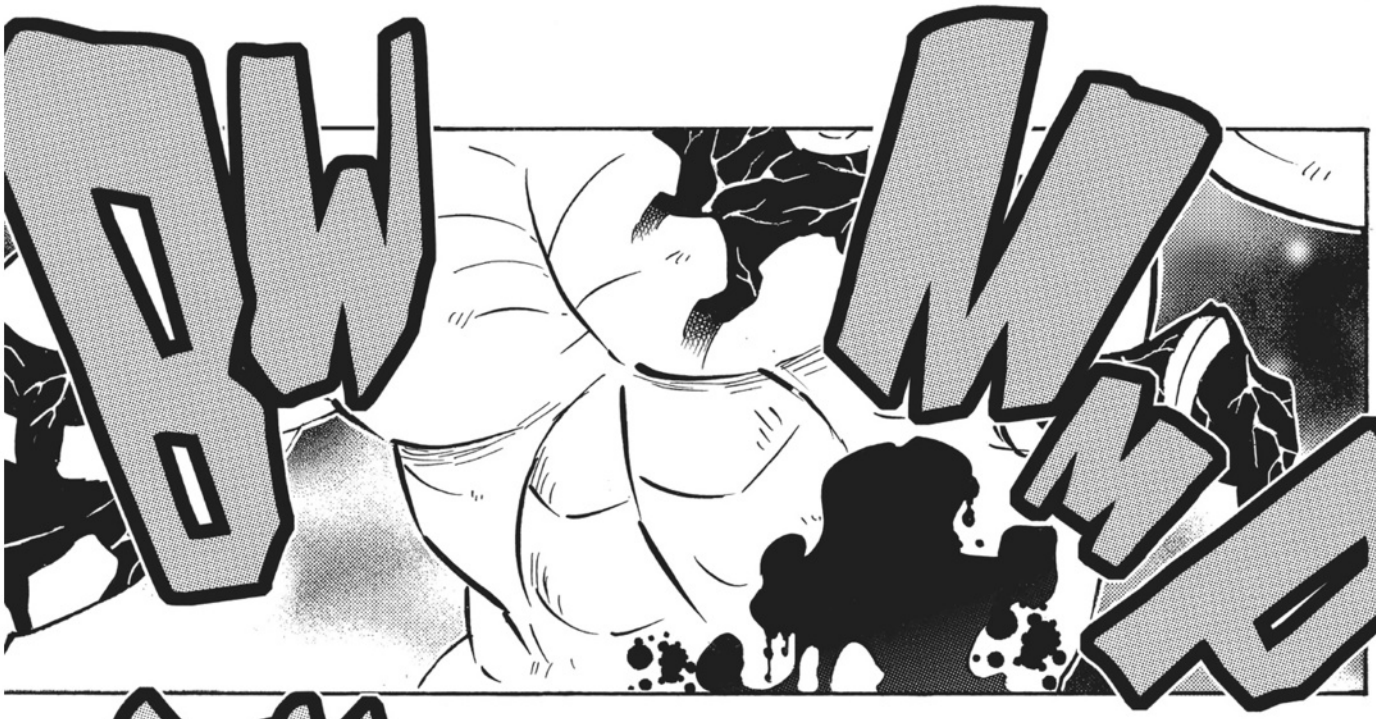

MY BROTHER, IS YOUR DREAM TO BECOME THE STRONGEST SAMURAI IN THE LAND?

I...
I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.

...WANT TO BECOME THE SECOND-STRONGEST SAMURAI.

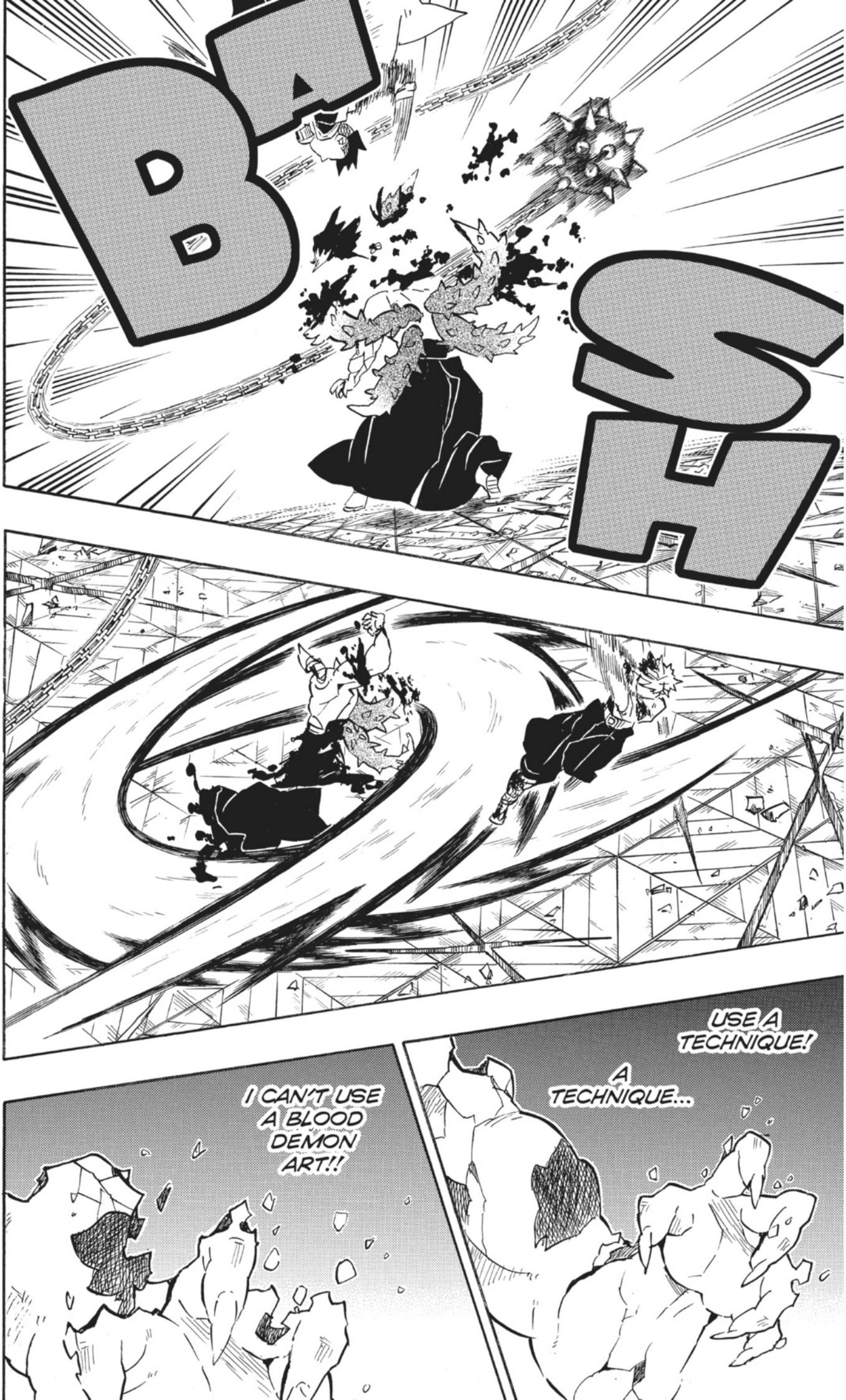

...WHAT A SAMURAI LOOKS LIKE?
IS THIS...

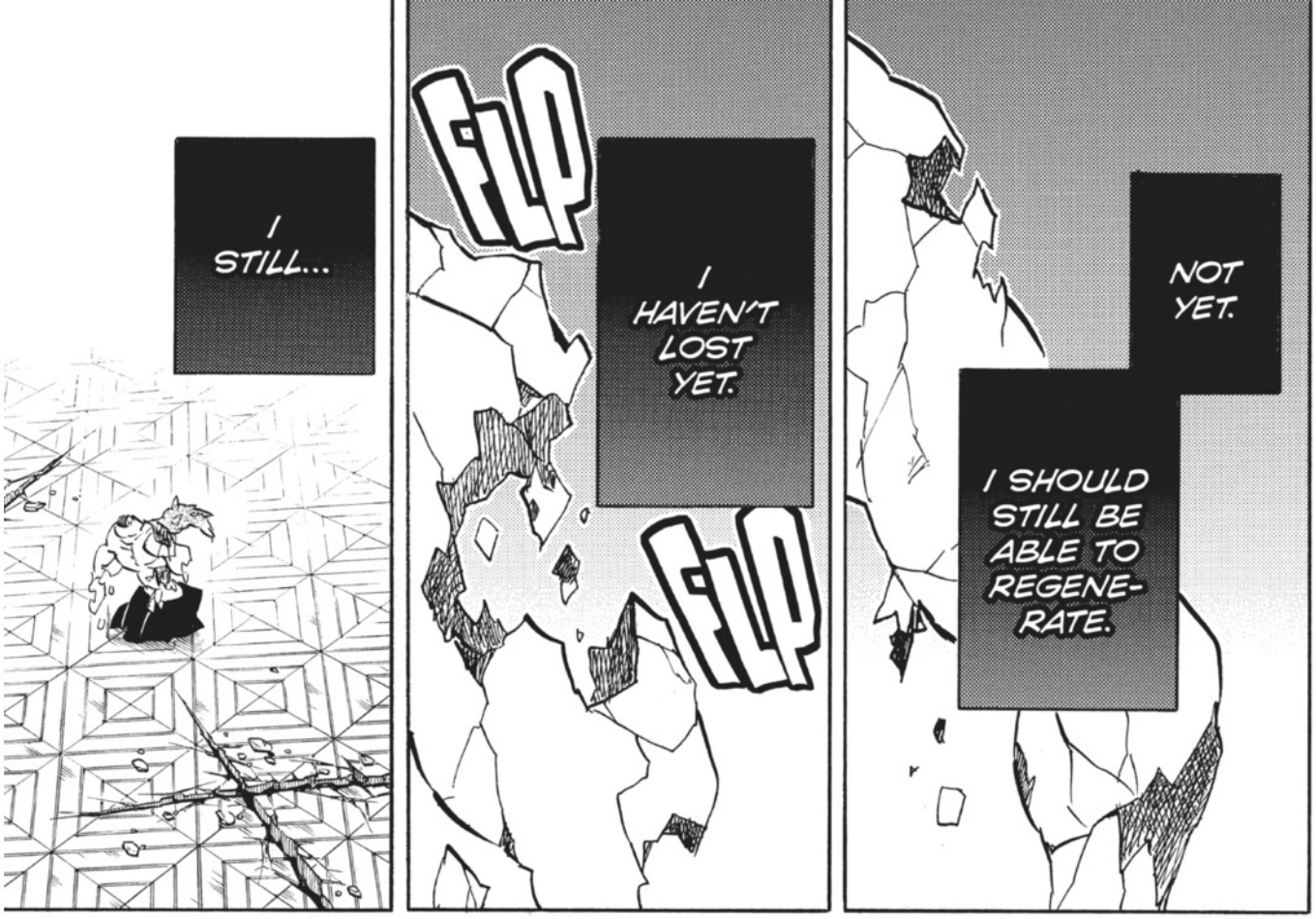
IS THIS REALLY WHAT I WANTED?

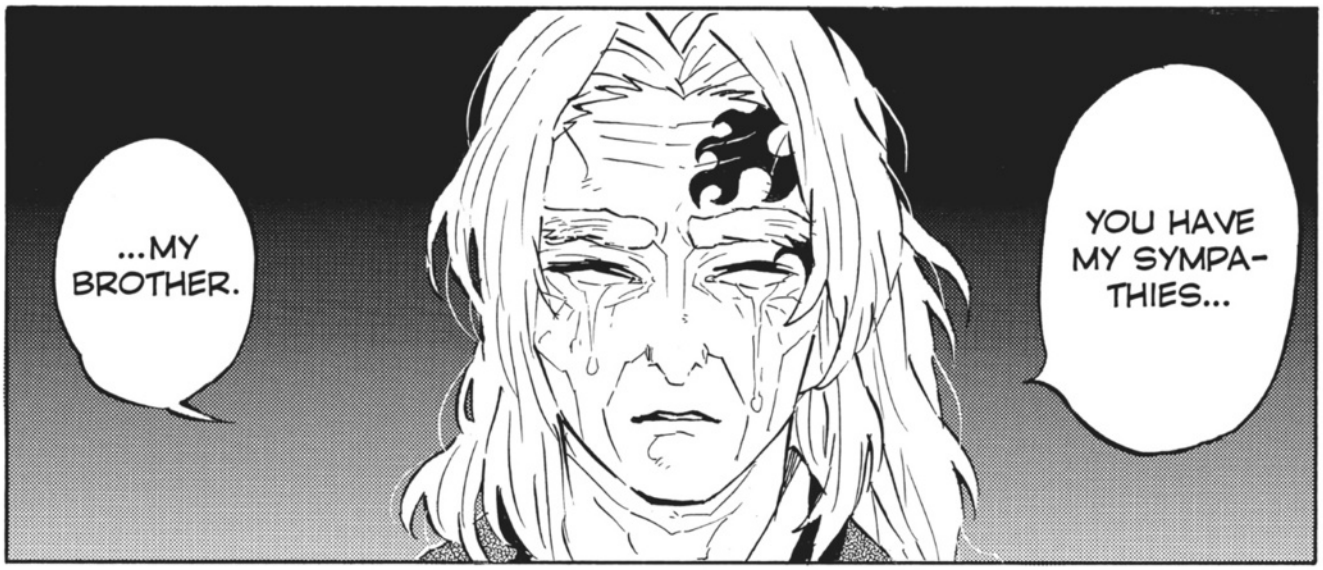

BWAH

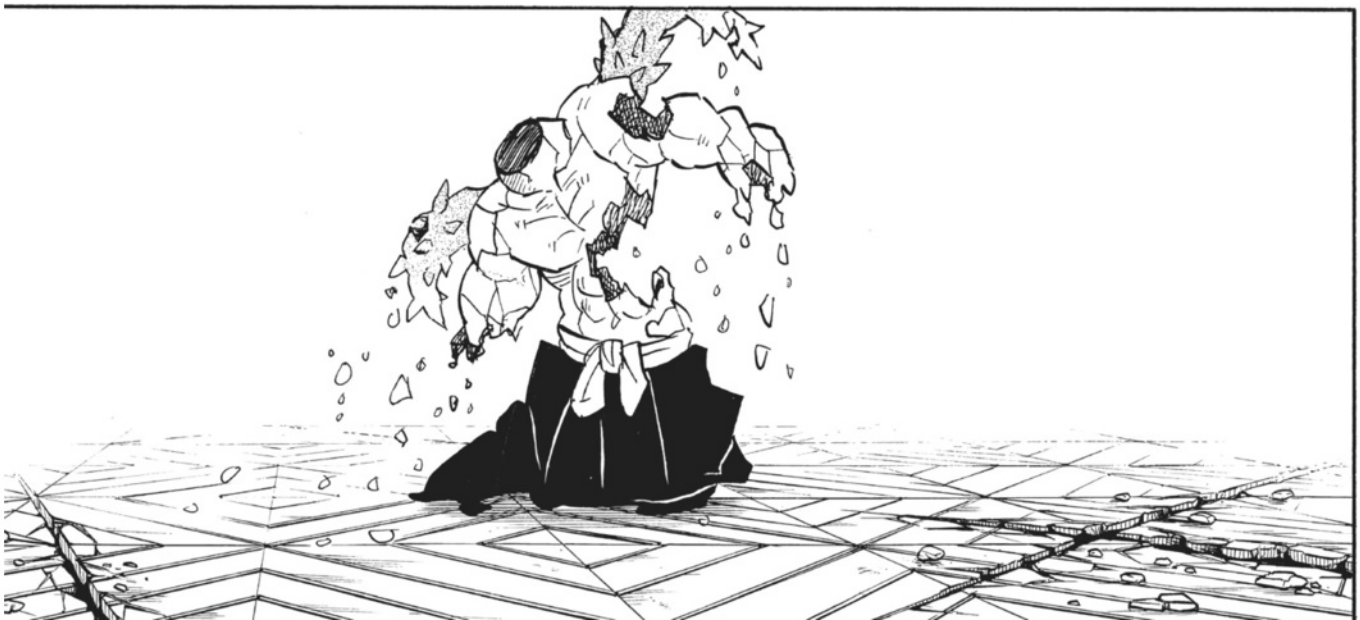
KU UB

?!
MY BODY IS FALLING APART WHERE MUICHIRO STABBED ME...

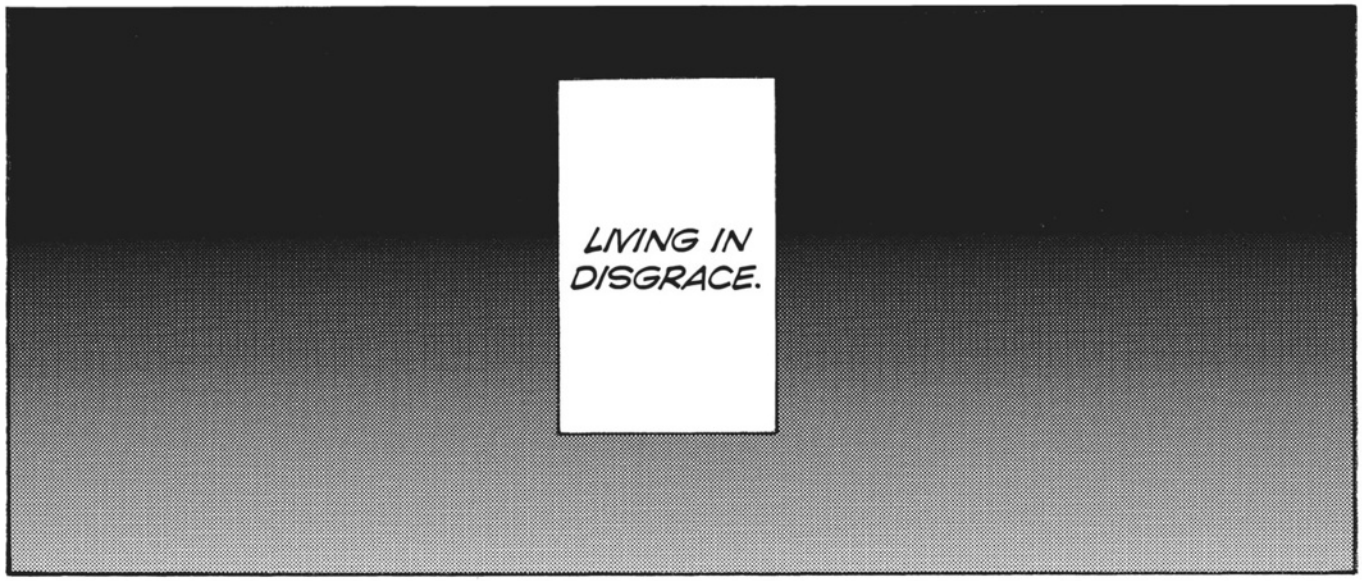

BASH
USE A TECHNIQUE!
A TECHNIQUE...
I CAN'T USE A BLOOD DEMON ART!!

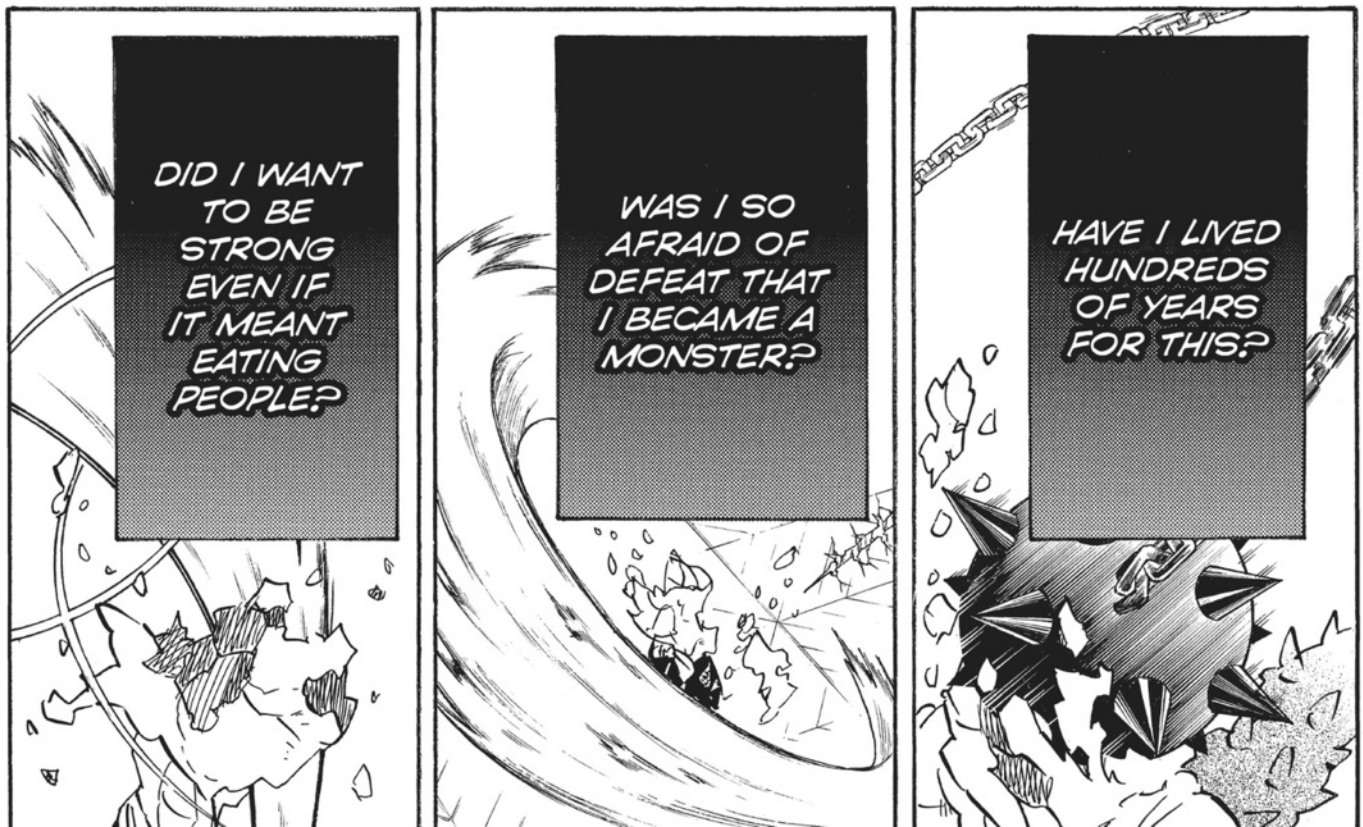

I STILL...
FLP
I HAVEN'T LOST YET.
FLP
NOT YET.
I SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO REGENE-RATE.

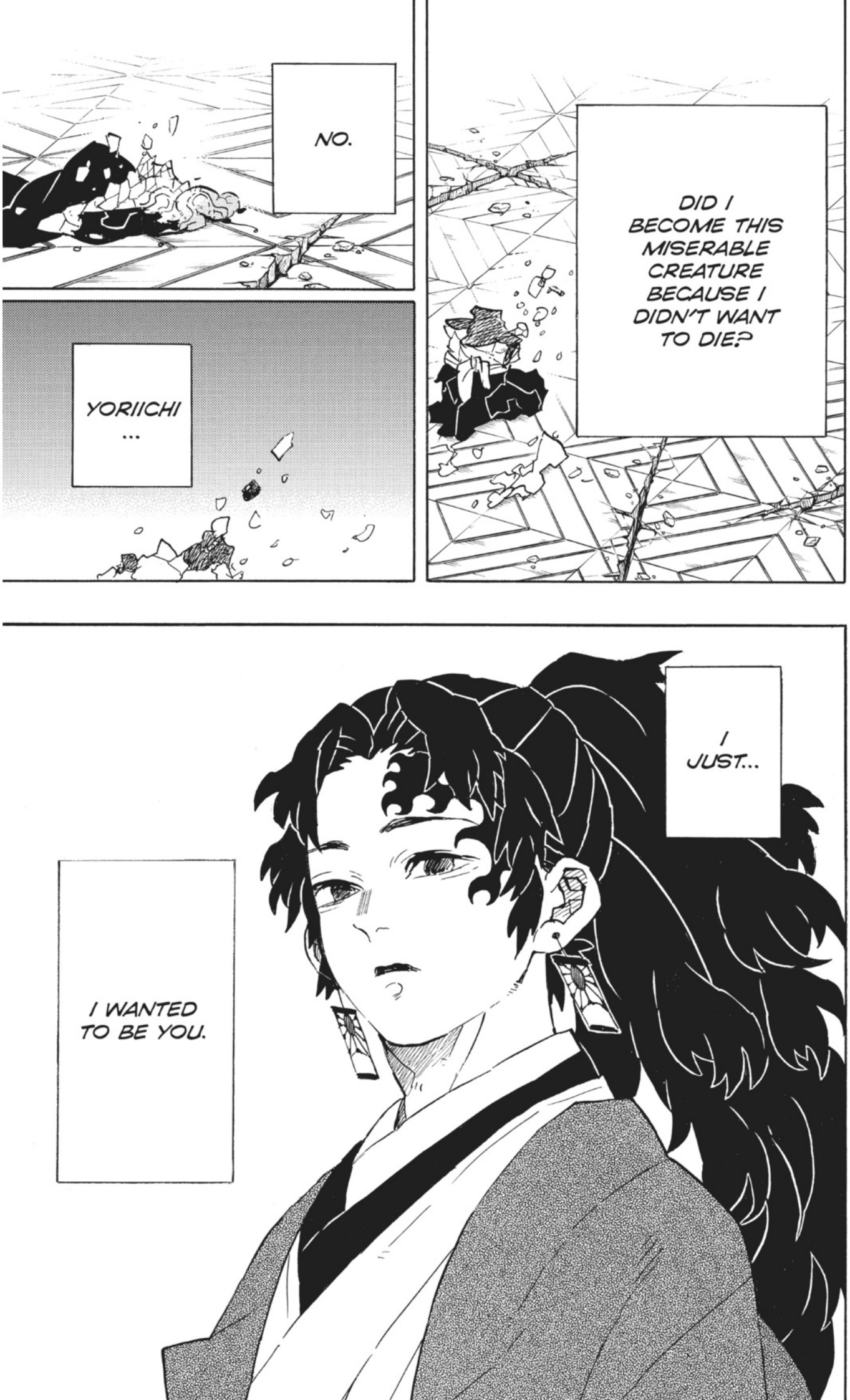

...MY BROTHER.
YOU HAVE MY SYMPA-THIES...



...EVEN THOUGH THEY TOOK OFF MY HEAD, CHOPPED ME UP AND CRUSHED ME.
THE UGLINESS OF NOT ADMITTING MY DEFEAT...


LIVING IN DISGRACE.


DID I WANT TO BE STRONG EVEN IF IT MEANT EATING PEOPLE?
WAS I SO AFRAID OF DEFEAT THAT I BECAME A MONSTER?
HAVE I LIVED HUNDREDS OF YEARS FOR THIS?


NO.
DID I BECOME THIS MISERABLE CREATURE BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE?
YORIICHI ...
I JUST...
I WANTED TO BE YOU.

When Kokushibo saw his reflection in Sanemi's blade, it was like a mirror, so it should have been reversed left to right, but I didn't have the time or skill to fix it.

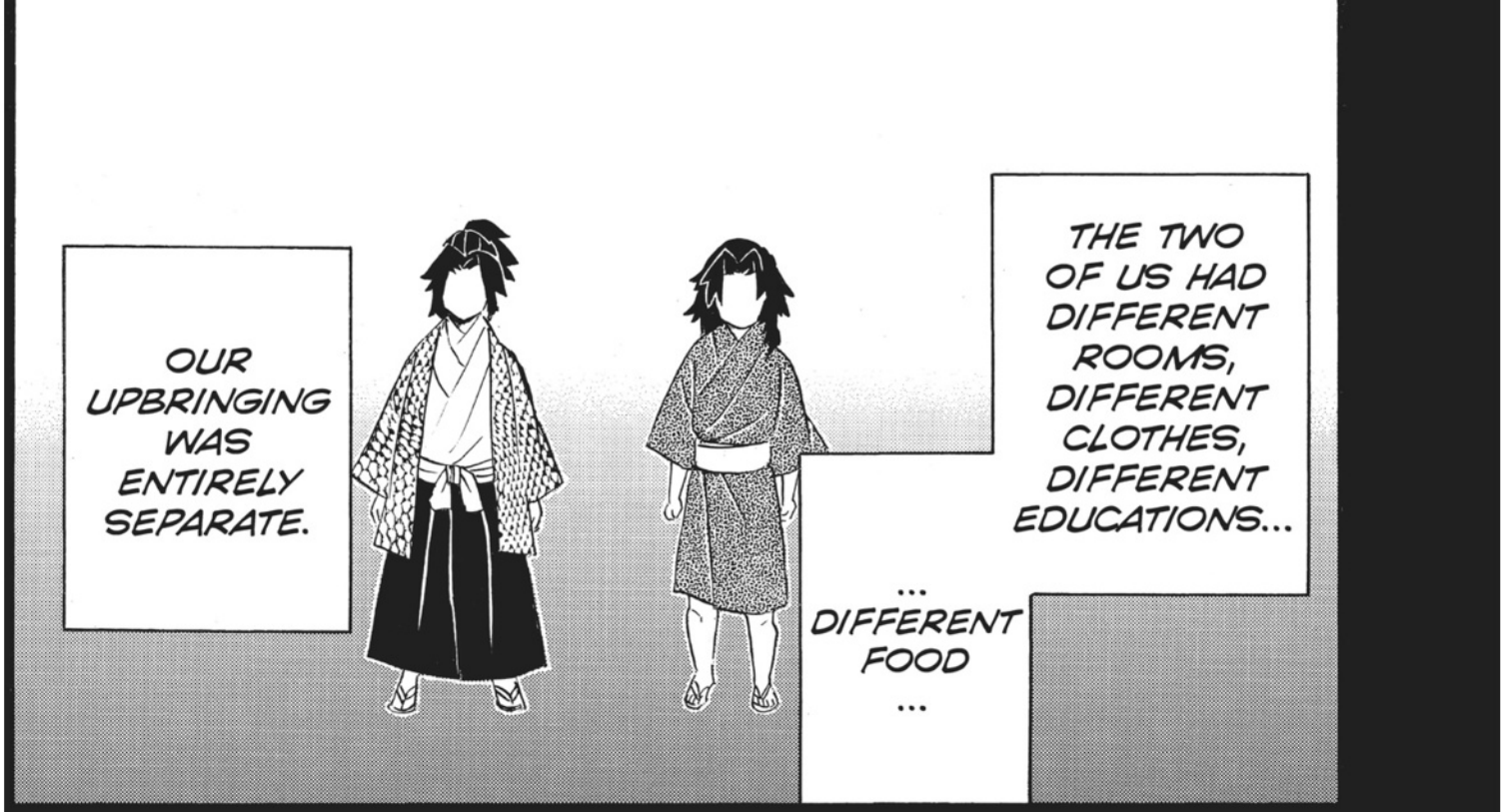
ANYONE WHO DOESN'T GET JEALOUS OF OTHER PEOPLE IS JUST LUCKY.
THEY HAVE JUST NEVER MET SOMEONE...
...WHO HAS RECEIVED THE GODS' FAVOR.
CHAPTER 177: YOUNGER BROTHER

SOMEONE INTENSE AND VIVID WHO BURNS EVERY-THING...
...LIKE THE SUN.

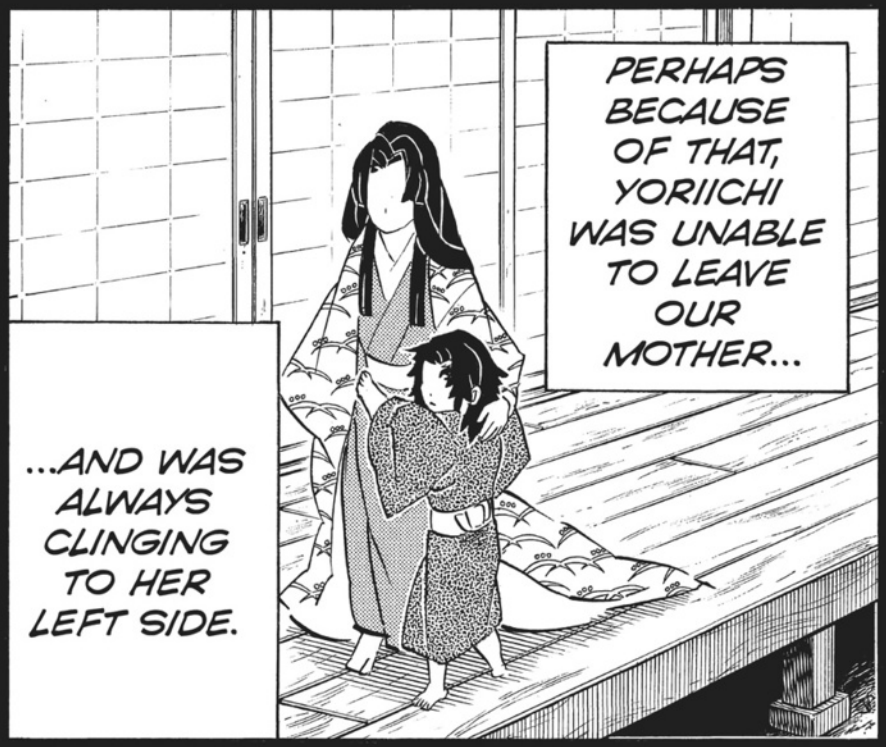
IN THE TIME WE WERE BORN...
...TWINS...
...WERE VIEWED AS INAUSPICIOUS BECAUSE THEY WOULD CAUSE SUCCESSION DISPUTES.

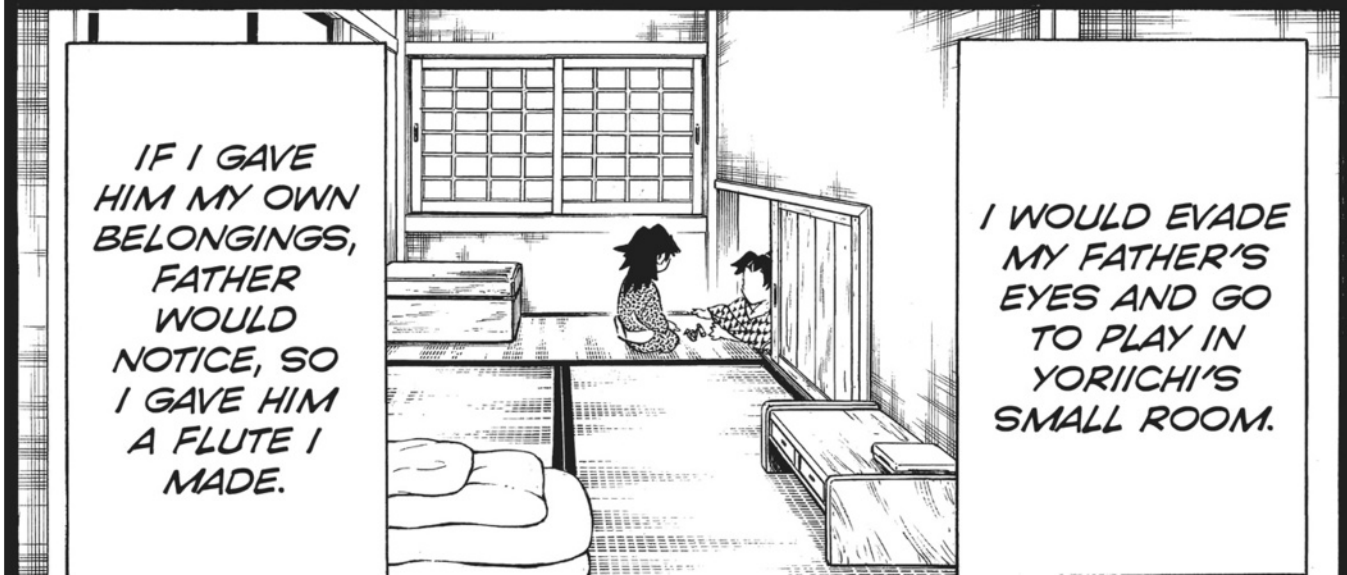
MY YOUNGER BROTHER, YORIICHI, WAS BORN WITH A DISTURBING MARK...
...SO FATHER DECLARED HE WOULD KILL HIM.

BUT WHEN MOTHER HEARD THAT...
...HER ANGER WAS LIKE A CONFLAGRATION, SUCH THAT NO ONE COULD CONTROL HER.
THEY AGREED THAT HE WOULD NOT KILL MY YOUNGER BROTHER, AND THAT WHEN YORIICHI REACHED AGE TEN THEY WOULD SEND HIM TO A TEMPLE.

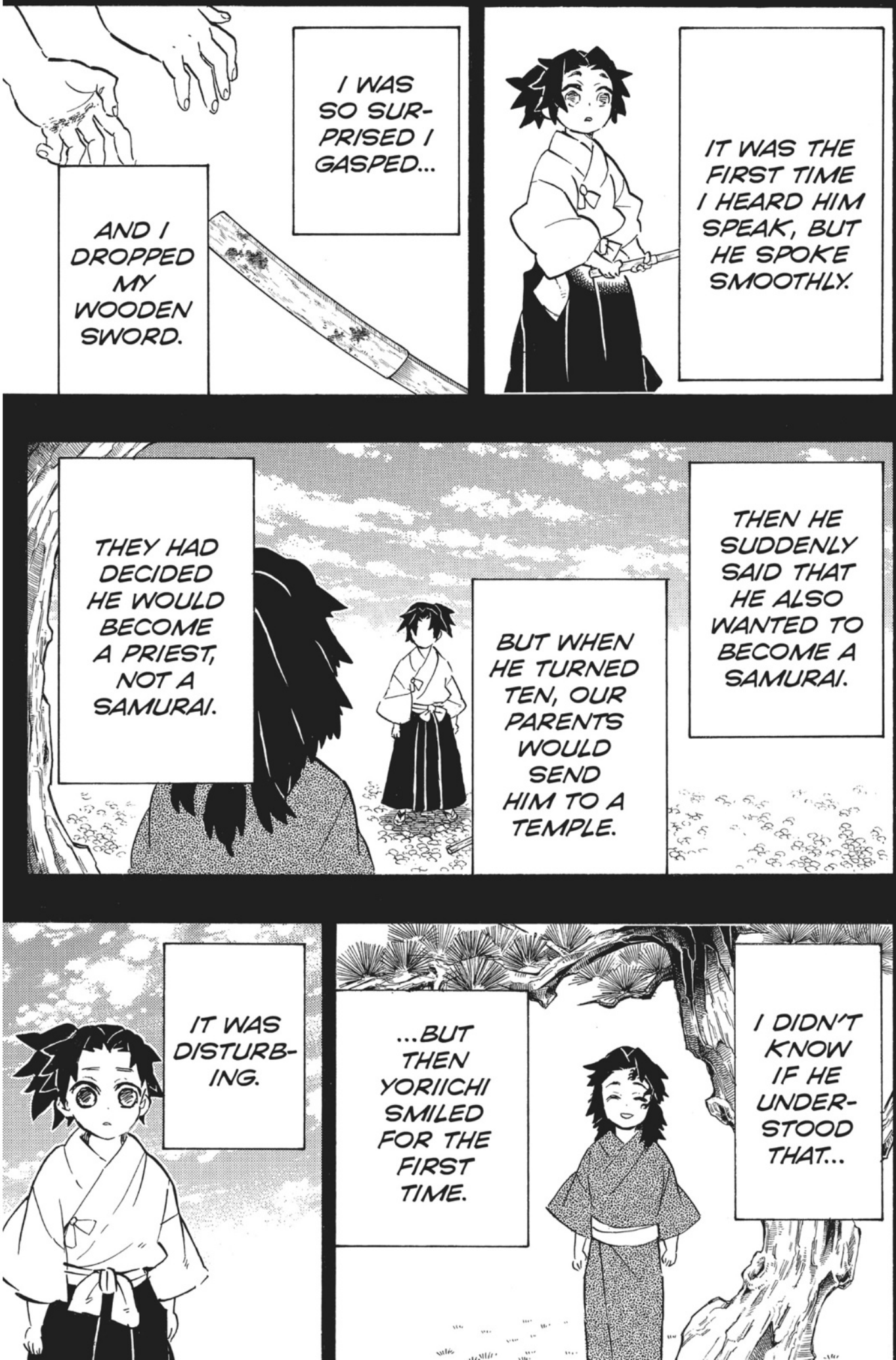

OUR UPBRINGING WAS ENTIRELY SEPARATE.
THE TWO OF US HAD DIFFERENT ROOMS, DIFFERENT CLOTHES, DIFFERENT EDUCATIONS...
...DIFFERENT FOOD...

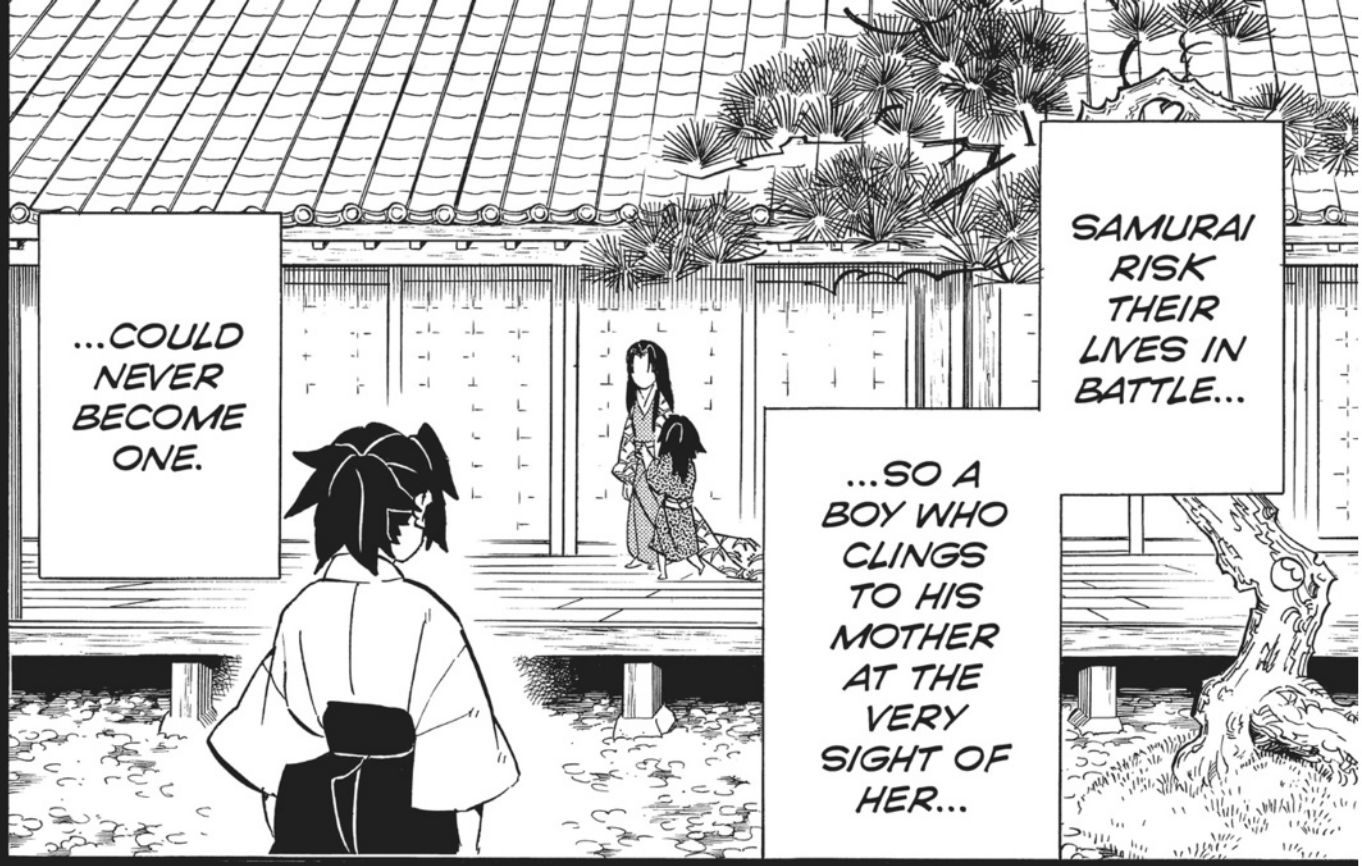
SEE-ING HIM LIKE THAT...
EVEN AS A CHILD, I PITIED YORIICHI.

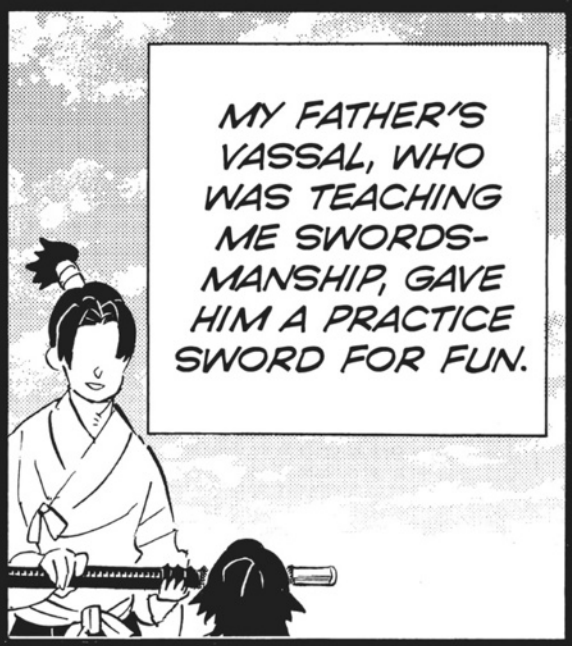

PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THAT, YORIICHI WAS UNABLE TO LEAVE OUR MOTHER...
...AND WAS ALWAYS CLINGING TO HER LEFT SIDE.

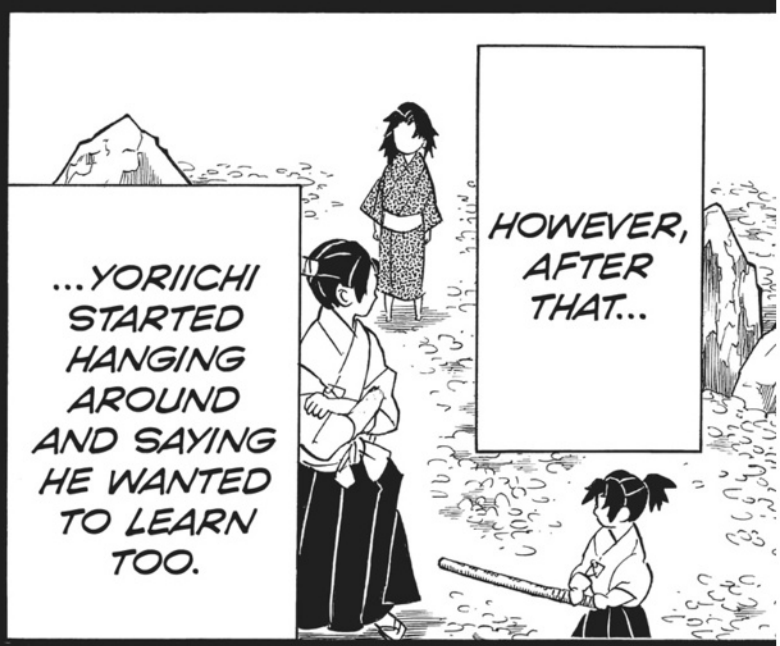

IF I GAVE HIM MY OWN BELONGINGS, FATHER WOULD NOTICE, SO I GAVE HIM A FLUTE I MADE.
I WOULD EVADE MY FATHER'S EYES AND GO TO PLAY IN YORIICHI'S SMALL ROOM.

FROM THE TIME YORIICHI WAS A BABY...
...HE NEVER SMILED...
...AND HE DIDN'T SPEAK UNTIL AGE SEVEN, SO EVERYONE THOUGHT HE WAS DEAF.
I LEARNED HE WASN'T DEAF AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME. I WAS PRACTICING MY SWORD SWING IN THE GARDEN.
YORIICHI WAS SILENTLY STANDING IN THE SHADE OF A PINE TREE...
...AND THAT ALONE WAS FRIGHTEN-ING.
MY BROTHER, IS YOUR DREAM TO BECOME THE STRONGEST SAMURAI IN THE LAND?


I WAS SO SURPRISED I GASPED...
AND I DROPPED MY WOODEN SWORD.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD HIM SPEAK, BUT HE SPOKE SMOOTHLY.
THEY HAD DECIDED HE WOULD BECOME A PRIEST, NOT A SAMURAI.
BUT WHEN HE TURNED TEN, OUR PARENTS WOULD SEND HIM TO A TEMPLE.
THEN HE SUDDENLY SAID THAT HE ALSO WANTED TO BECOME A SAMURAI.
IT WAS DISTURBING.
...BUT THEN YORIICHI SMILED FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I DIDN'T KNOW IF HE UNDERSTOOD THAT...


SAMURAI RISK THEIR LIVES IN BATTLE...
...SO A BOY WHO CLINGS TO HIS MOTHER AT THE VERY SIGHT OF HER...
...COULD NEVER BECOME ONE.


MY FATHER'S VASSAL, WHO WAS TEACHING ME SWORDS-MANSHIP, GAVE HIM A PRACTICE SWORD FOR FUN.

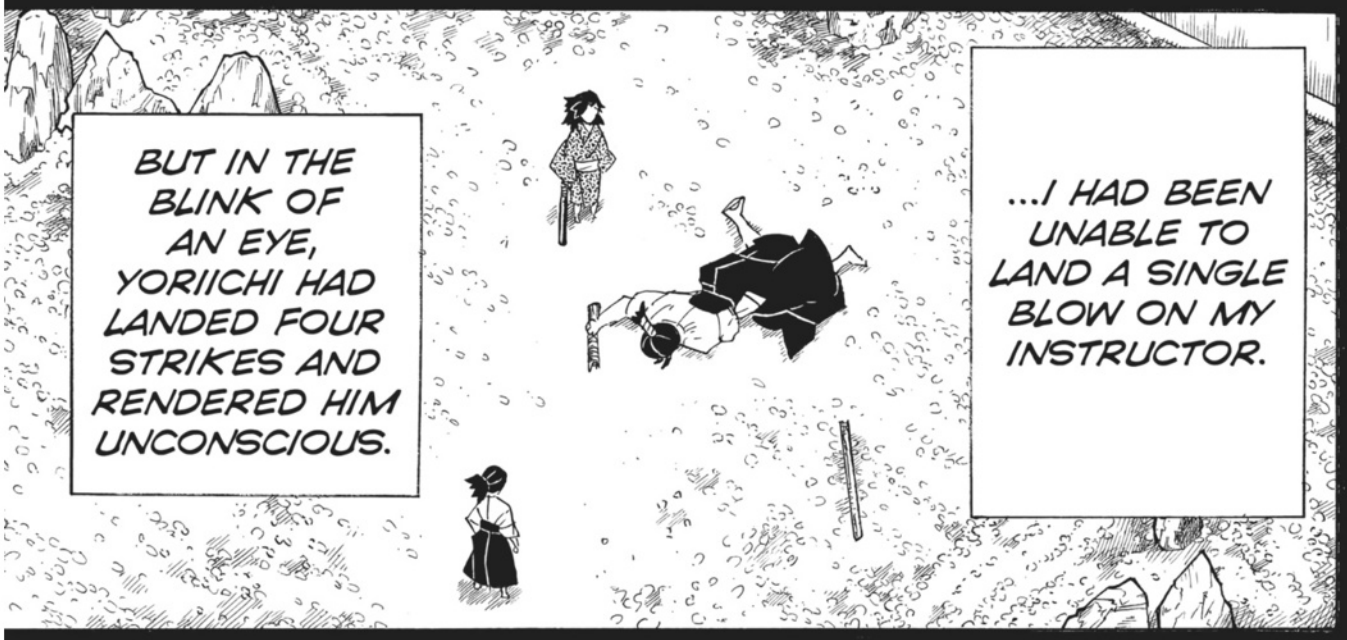

HOWEVER, AFTER THAT...
...YORIICHI STARTED HANGING AROUND AND SAYING HE WANTED TO LEARN TOO.

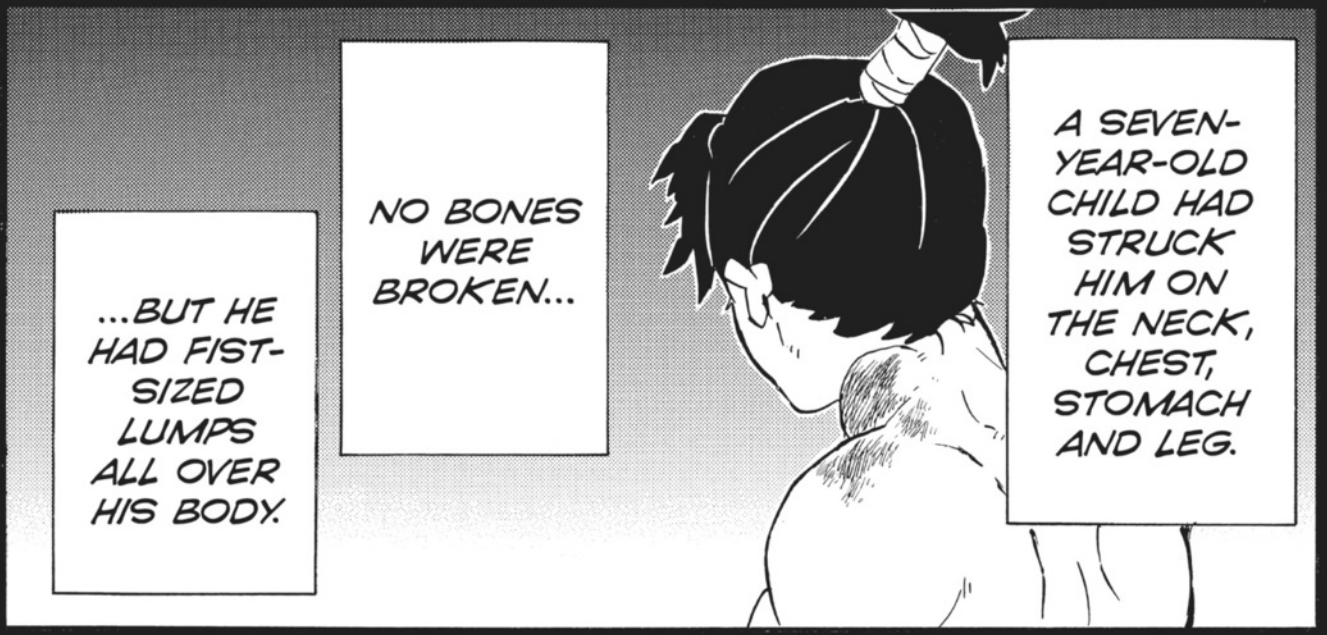
MY INSTRUC-TOR CASUALLY TOLD HIM...
...HOW TO HOLD IT AND HOW TO STAND.
WITH THAT, MY FATHER'S VASSAL TOOK A FIGHTING STANCE AND TOLD MY BROTHER TO TRY TO STRIKE HIM.

SIOOO
FWACK
THK

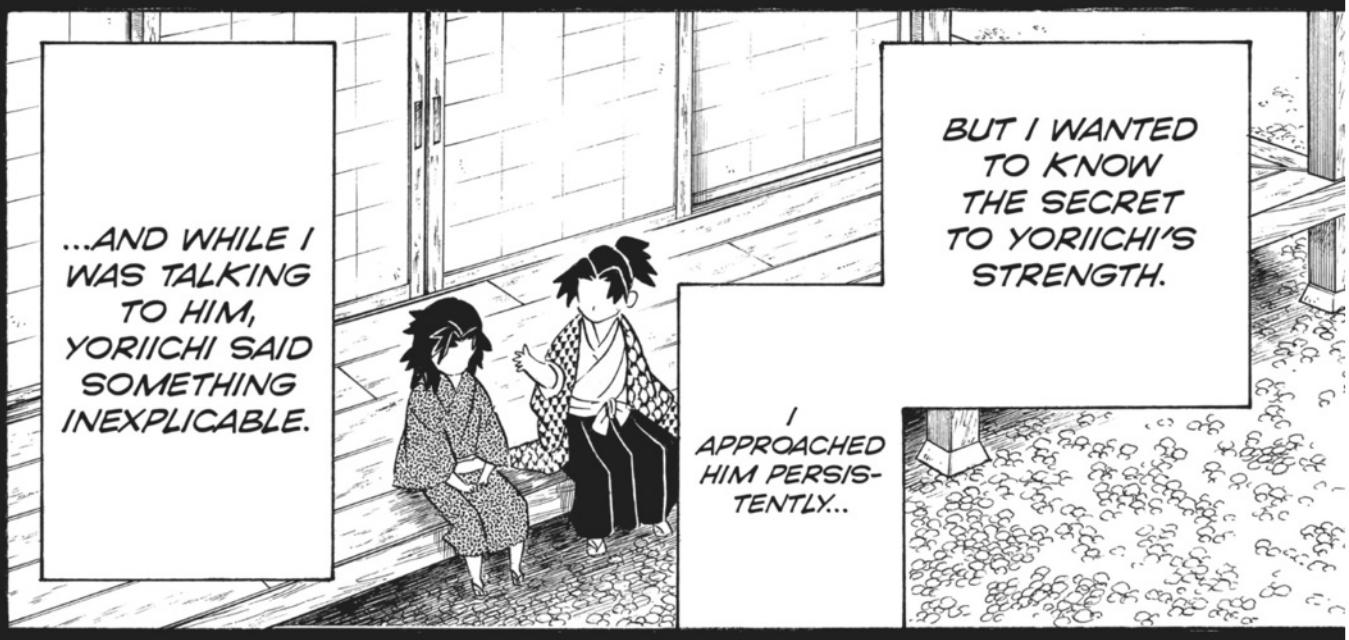
THUD

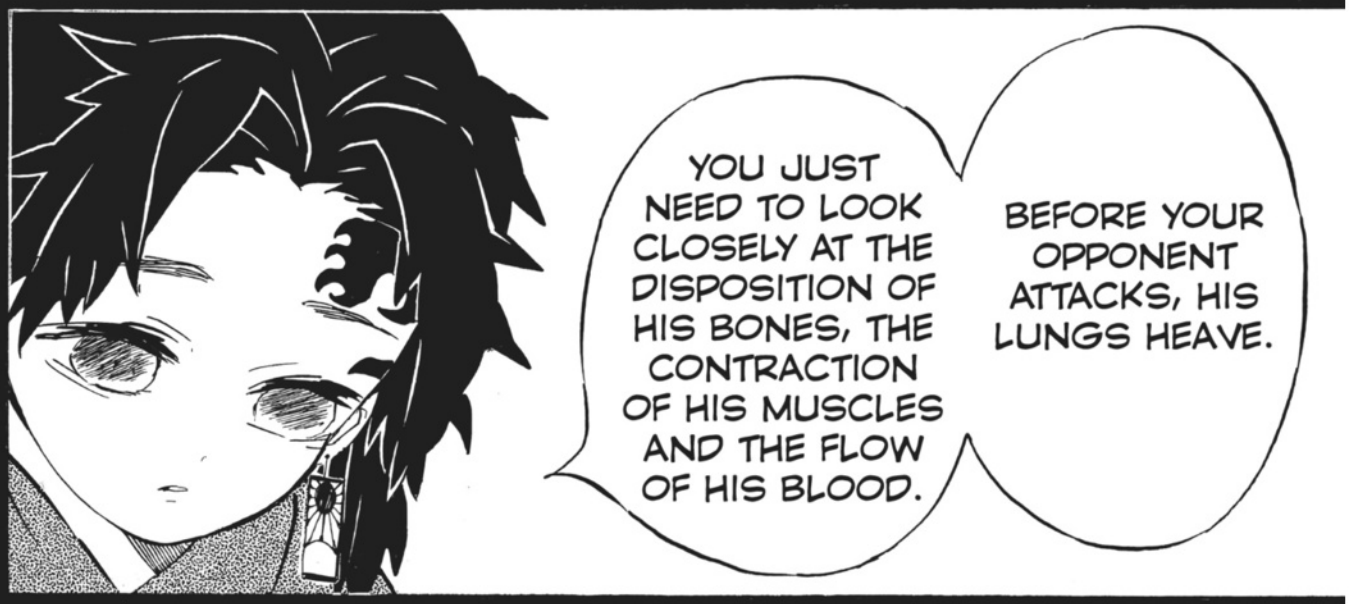
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED...


BUT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, YORIICHI HAD LANDED FOUR STRIKES AND RENDERED HIM UNCONSCIOUS.
...I HAD BEEN UNABLE TO LAND A SINGLE BLOW ON MY INSTRUCTOR.


...BUT HE HAD FIST-SIZED LUMPS ALL OVER HIS BODY.
NO BONES WERE BROKEN...
A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD HAD STRUCK HIM ON THE NECK, CHEST, STOMACH AND LEG.

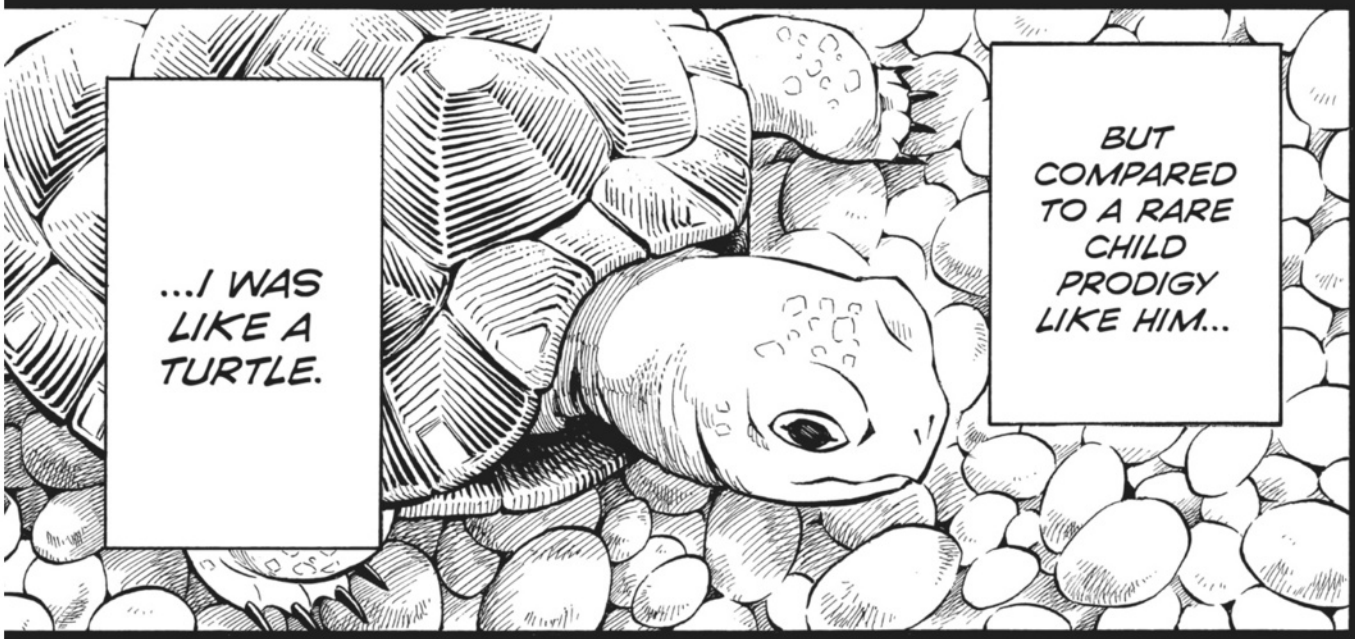
THE FEELING OF HITTING SOMEONE WAS UNBEARABLE TO HIM.
AFTER THAT, YORIICHI STOPPED SAYING HE WANTED TO BECOME A SAMURAI.

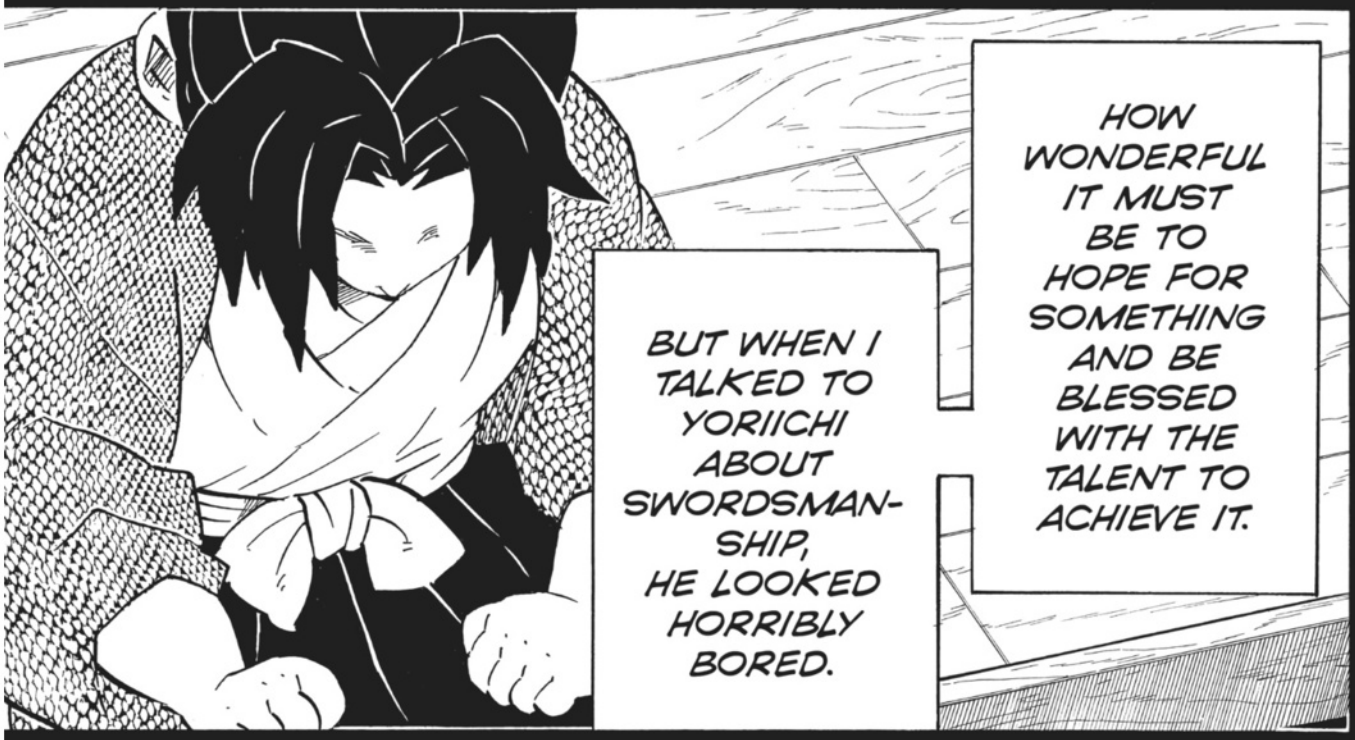

...AND WHILE I WAS TALKING TO HIM, YORIICHI SAID SOMETHING INEXPLICABLE.
I APPROACHED HIM PERSISTENTLY...
BUT I WANTED TO KNOW THE SECRET TO YORIICHI'S STRENGTH.


YOU JUST NEED TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THE DISPOSITION OF HIS BONES, THE CONTRACTION OF HIS MUSCLES AND THE FLOW OF HIS BLOOD.
BEFORE YOUR OPPONENT ATTACKS, HIS LUNGS HEAVE.

ALONG WITH HIS BIRTHMARK, HE HAD BEEN BORN WITH A SPECIAL SIGHT.
YORIICHI COULD SEE INSIDE THE BODIES OF LIVING CREATURES.
IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR ME TO UNDER-STAND.
AND HE POSSESSED PHYSICAL ABILITIES THAT COMPLE-MENTED IT.
...BUT HE WAS FAR SUPERIOR TO ME.
UNTIL THEN, I HAD PITIED HIM...

INSTEAD OF TALKING ABOUT SWORDS...
...I WANT TO PLAY BOARD GAMES OR FLY A KITE WITH YOU.
I WANTED TO MASTER THE WAY OF THE SWORD.
THE WAY OF THE SWORD REQUIRES PAIN AND SUFFERING...
...AND THE HARDER I WORKED, THE STRONGER I GOT.
...BUT TALENT HAD BEEN RECOGNIZED IN ME...


...I WAS LIKE A TURTLE.
BUT COMPARED TO A RARE CHILD PRODIGY LIKE HIM...


HOW WONDERFUL IT MUST BE TO HOPE FOR SOMETHING AND BE BLESSED WITH THE TALENT TO ACHIEVE IT.
BUT WHEN I TALKED TO YORIICHI ABOUT SWORDSMAN-SHIP, HE LOOKED HORRIBLY BORED.

TO YORIICHI, THE WAY OF THE SWORD WAS LESS THAN CHILD'S PLAY.
...HE WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT AT ALL.
DESPITE HIS EXCELLENT TALENT WITH THE SWORD...

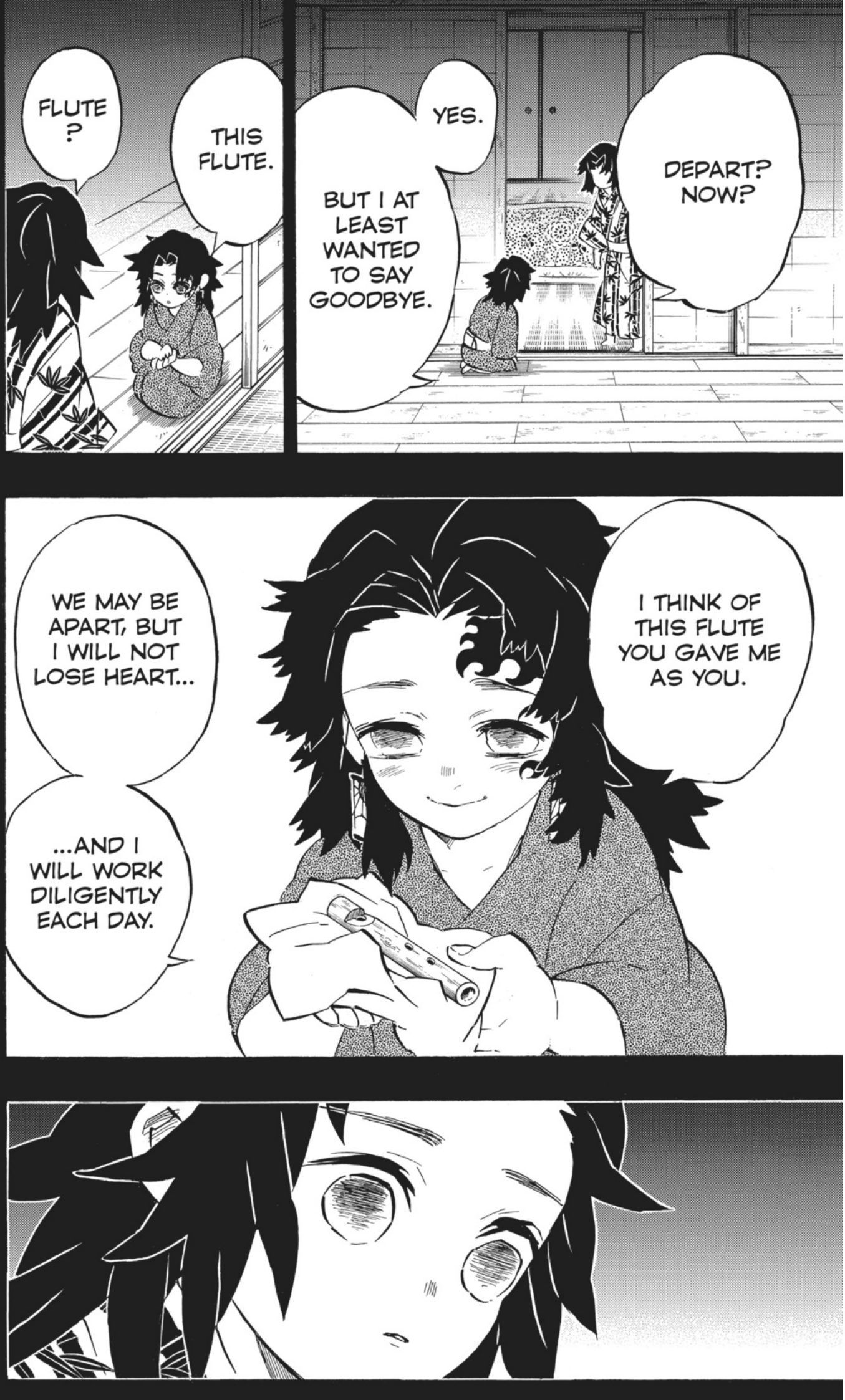
OUR POSITIONS REVERSED.
MY FATHER'S VASSAL MUST HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT YORIICHI.

YORIICHI WOULD BE THE ONE TO INHERIT THE HOUSE.
FATHER WOULD FORCE ME INTO THAT SMALL ROOM...
...AND WHEN I TURNED TEN YEARS OLD, HE WOULD SEND ME TO A TEMPLE. MY DREAM OF BECOMING A SAMURAI WOULD NEVER COME TRUE.

YES?
...

BIG BROTHER...

WHAT?
MOTHER HAS DIED.
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S SO SUDDEN...
IN THE HOUR OF THE TIGER, YORIICHI CAME.
OUR MOTHER'S DEATH WAS A GREAT SURPRISE.
I WILL NOW DEPART FOR THE TEMPLE.
PLEASE, ASK HER SERVANT, ITO, ABOUT THE DETAILS.
I'M SORRY.


FLUTE?
THIS FLUTE.
YES.
BUT I AT LEAST WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE.
DEPART? NOW?
I THINK OF THIS FLUTE YOU GAVE ME AS YOU.
WE MAY BE APART, BUT I WILL NOT LOSE HEART...
...AND I WILL WORK DILIGENTLY EACH DAY.

THE FLUTE WAS A PIECE OF JUNK THAT COULD ONLY PLAY OFF PITCH...
...BUT HE WRAPPED IT IN CLOTH AND KEPT IT CLOSE AS IF IT WERE A TREASURE.
HE WAS SMILING AGAIN.
I HAD NO IDEA...
...WHAT WAS SO PLEASING ABOUT THAT PIECE OF JUNK.
IT WAS DISTURB-ING.
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK TO HIM, BUT...
...YORIICHI APPEARED SATISFIED AND BOWED DEEPLY.
THEN, HE WALKED AWAY...
...TAKING HARDLY ANYTHING WITH HIM.

...SO HE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE HOUSE EARLIER THAN PLANNED.
...YORIICHI HAD SENSED THAT FATHER WOULD DESIGNATE HIM AS HEIR...
ACCORD-ING TO MOTHER'S JOURNAL...
FOR YEARS, SHE HAD SUFFERED DIFFICULTIES ON THE LEFT SIDE OF HER BODY.
...OF MOTHER'S ILLNESS AND AP-PROACHING DEATH.
YORIICHI HAD KNOWN...
THE LEFT...
THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BODY.

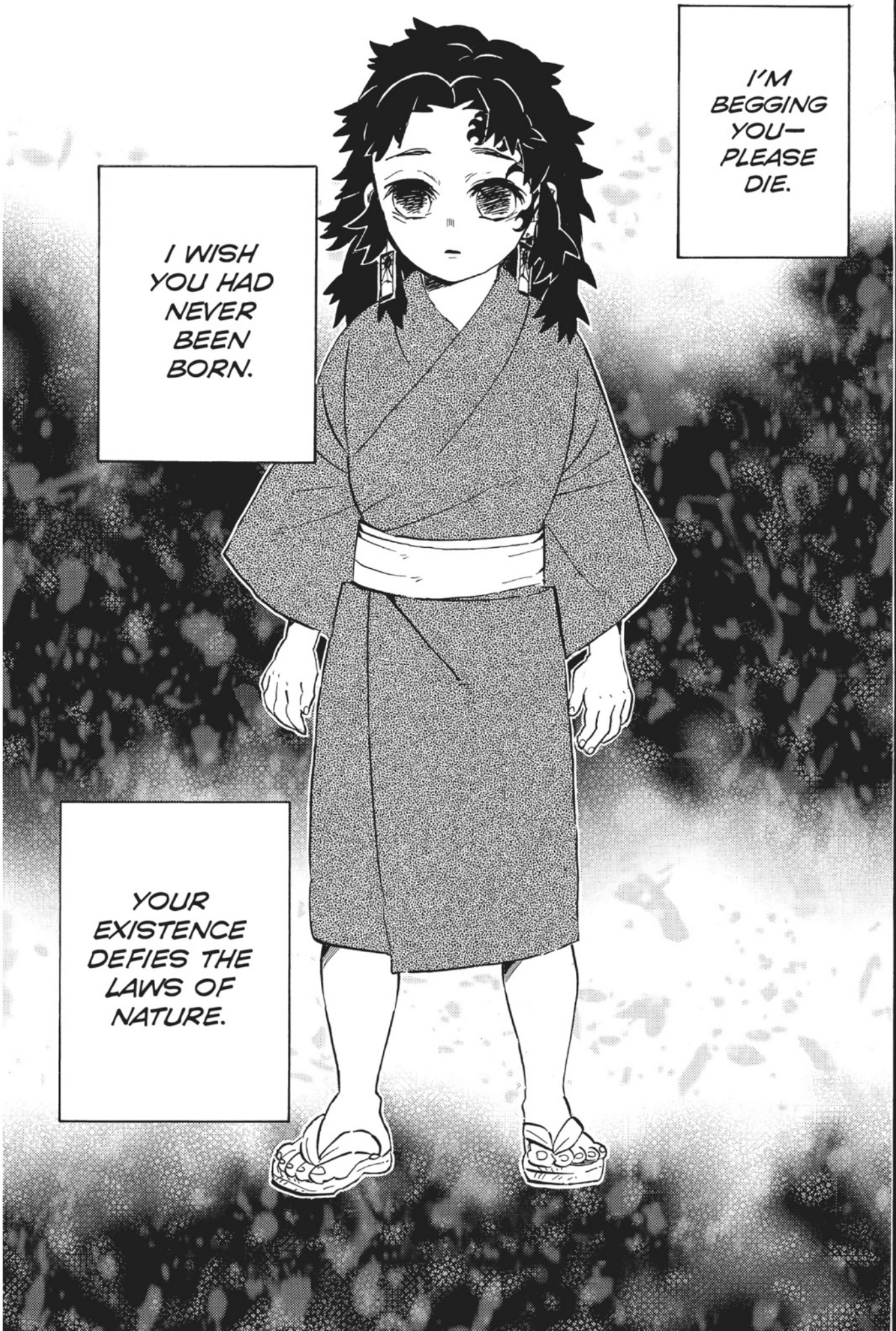
YORIICHI HADN'T BEEN CLINGING TO HER.
SHE HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY HER ILLNESS, AND HE HAD BEEN SUPPORTING HER.
KAMPEE
AT THAT MOMENT ...
...I COULD HEAR MY WHOLE BODY BURNING WITH JEALOUSY.
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I HATED YORIICHI FOR HIS GENIUS.

TAISHO WHISPERS

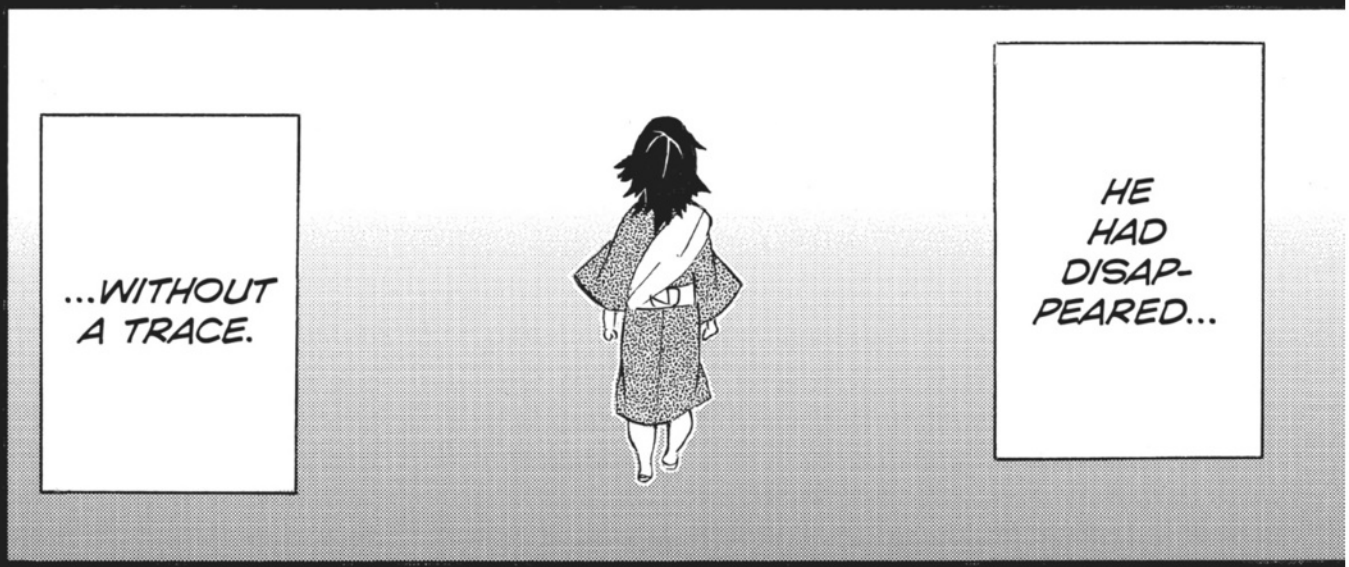
Michikatsu and Yoriichi's mother, Akeno, was so calm and quiet that people say she was like a doll.

For that reason, it must have been shocking to the people who knew her when she flew into a rage at her husband for saying he would kill Yoriichi for being born with an unsettling birthmark. Michikatsu and Yoriichi's mother treated the children with equal affection as much as possible. The horrible stress over Yoriichi wearing shabby clothes and living in a room like a closet worsened her illness. In her will, she expressed concern for her husband's health, and begged that her children be kept together, treated equally and raised in good health. The father named Michikatsu in the hope that he would be strong and always be successful, while the mother named Yoriichi in the hope that he would value connections between people above all.

CHAPTER 178: EVEN IF YOU REACH OUT YOUR HAND

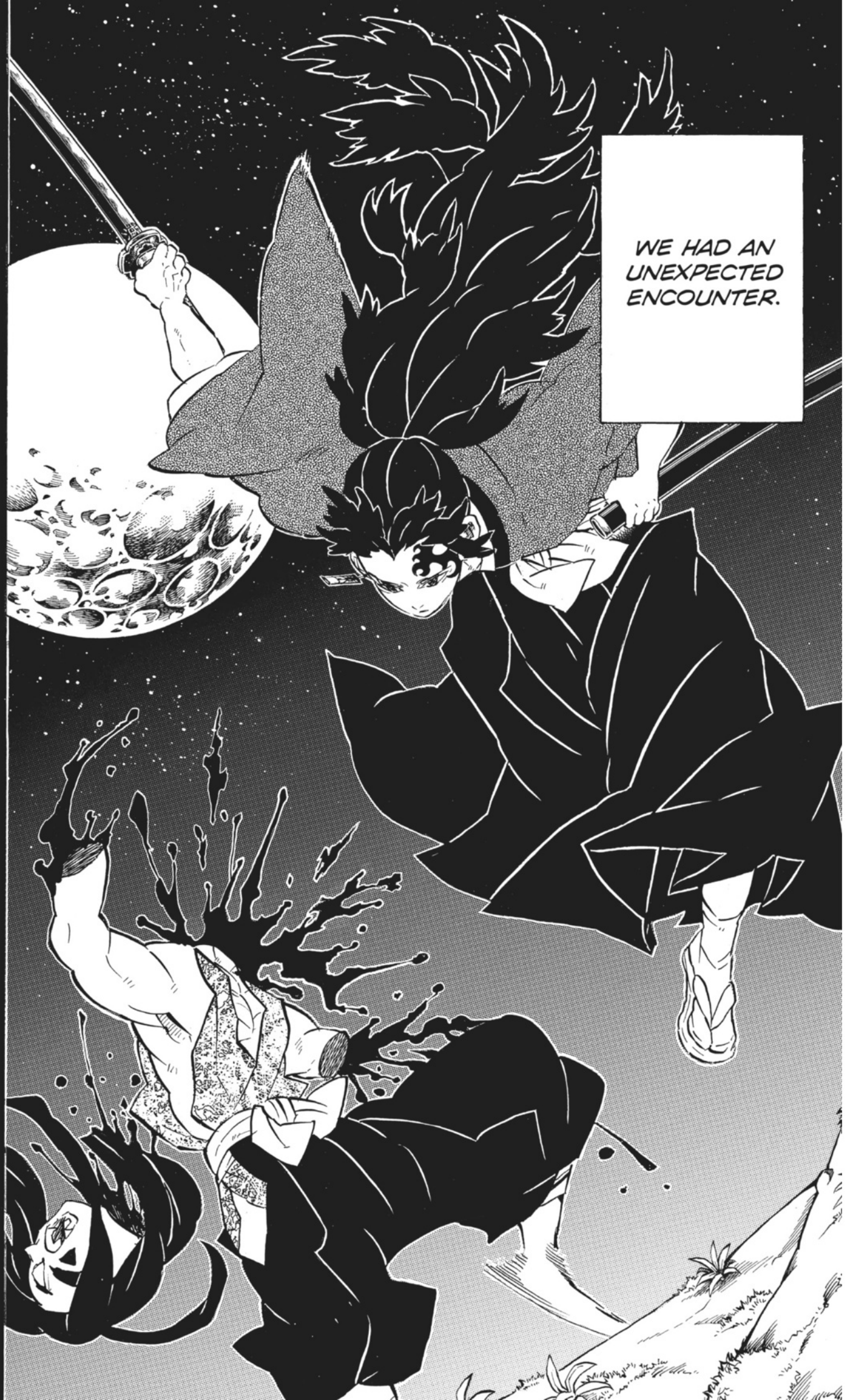


...BUT HE WASN'T THERE.
FATHER ...
...SENT A MESSENGER TO THE TEMPLE TO BRING BACK YORIICHI.

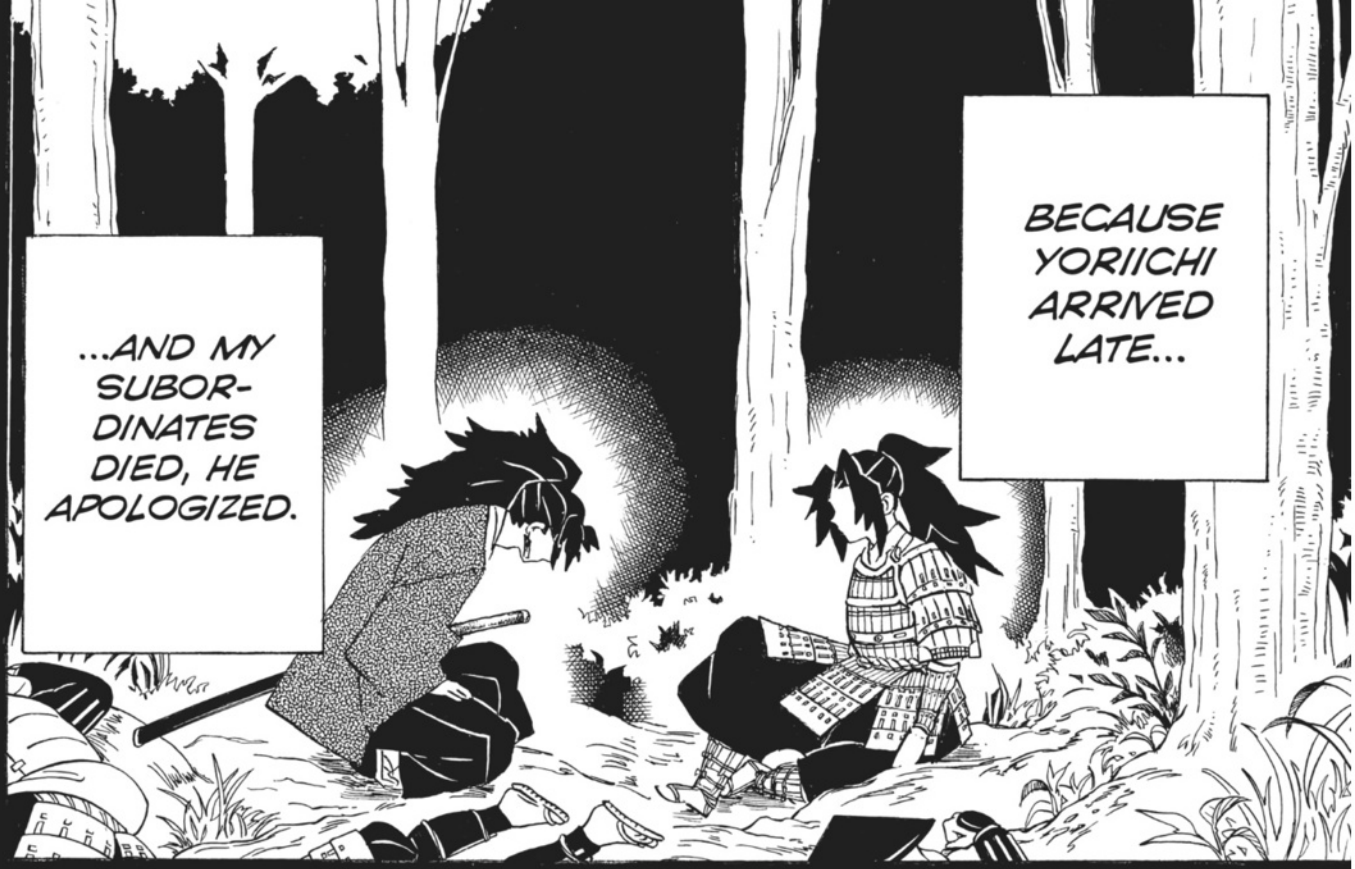

...WITHOUT A TRACE.
HE HAD DISAP-PEARED...

UNEXPECTEDLY, MY WISH HAD COME TRUE.
KIDNAPPERS? A LANDSLIDE? DID A BEAR ATTACK HIM?

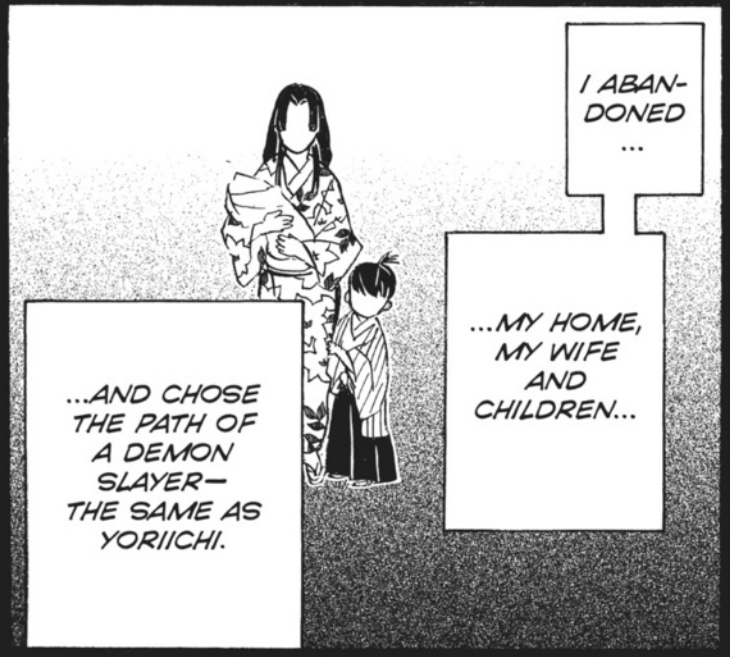
THE NEXT TEN YEARS WERE A PEACEFUL TIME.
I MARRIED AND HAD CHILDREN.
EVERY DAY WAS TRANQUIL AND SOMEWHAT BORING.
THE FLOW OF TIME FELT EXTREMELY SLOW.
HOW-EVER...
...A DEMON ATTACKED WHERE I HAD CAMPED.
TIME HAD STAGNATED, BUT NOW IT BEGAN TO MOVE.


WE HAD AN UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER.

HE WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN.
HE HAD MASTERED THE SWORD...
THE ONE WHO SAVED ME FROM THE DEMON WAS YORIICHI.
...AND COULD EASILY DEFEAT INHUMAN OPPONENTS.
AGAIN, MY STOMACH BURNED WITH JEALOUSY AND HATE.
THE MOMENT I SAW YORIICHI, IT DESTROYED MY SERENITY.
...MY BROTHER.
I AM SORRY...

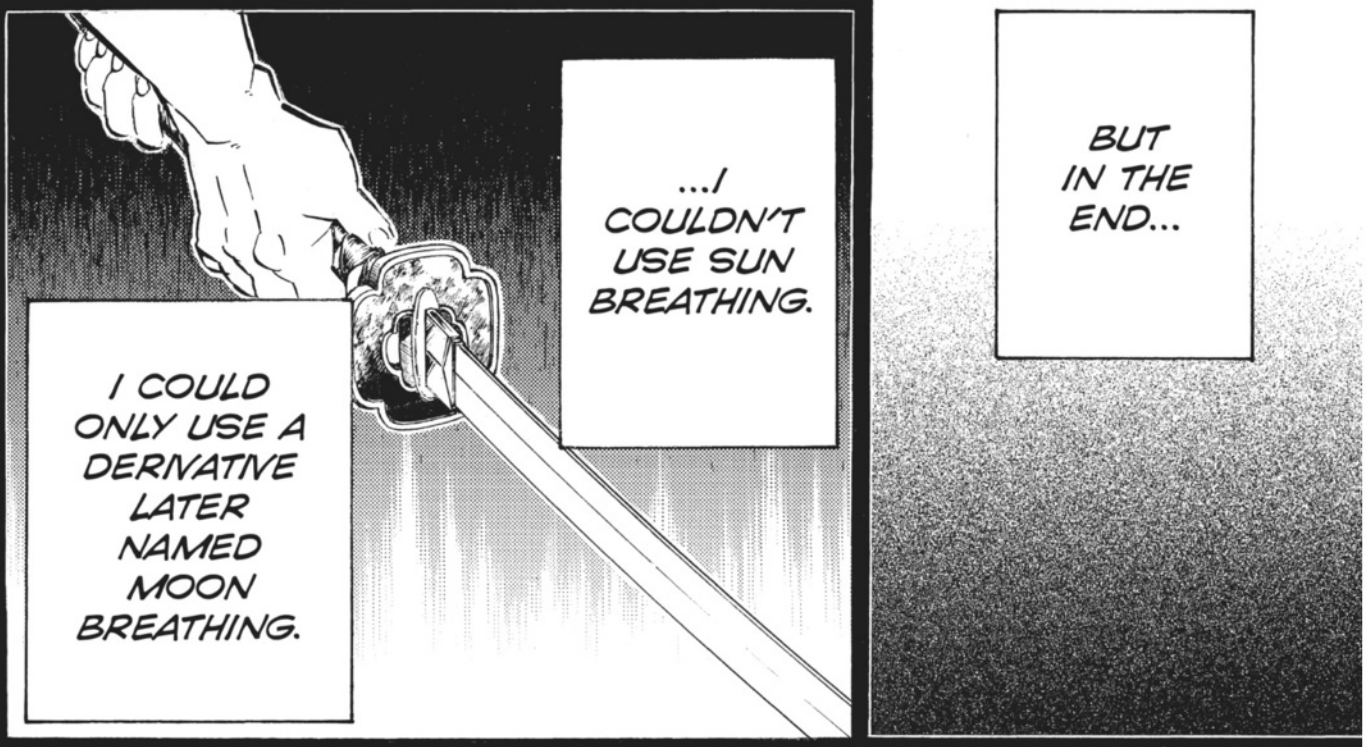

BECAUSE YORIICHI ARRIVED LATE...
...AND MY SUBOR-DINATES DIED, HE APOLOGIZED.

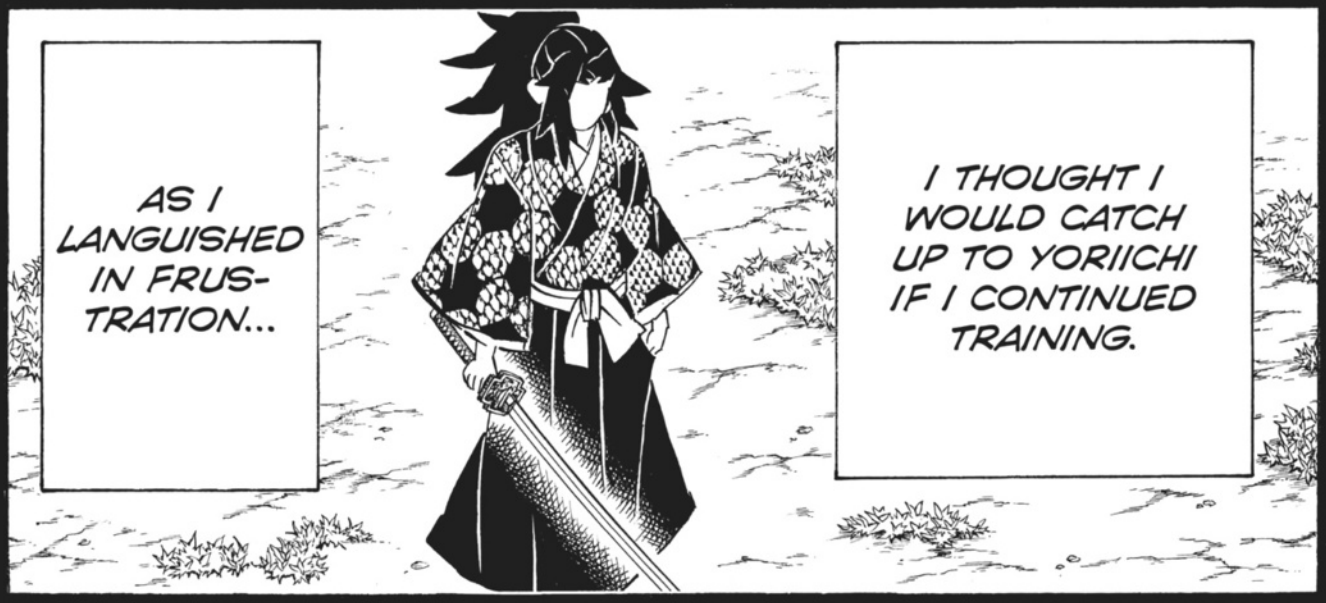
NO MATTER THE COST, I WANTED TO MAKE HIS STRENGTH...
...AND SWORD SKILLS MY OWN.


I ABAN-DONED ...
...MY HOME, MY WIFE AND CHILDREN...
...AND CHOSE THE PATH OF A DEMON SLAYER— THE SAME AS YORIICHI.

YORI-ICHI WAS STRONG...
...AND WAS A PERSON OF FAULTLESS CHARACTER.

YORIICHI WOULD TEACH ANYONE SWORD AND BREATHING TECHNIQUES.
BUT NOT A SINGLE PERSON COULD MATCH HIM.
TO SUIT EACH PERSON'S SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES...
...YORIICHI CHANGED THE BREATHING TECHNIQUE AS HE TAUGHT.
THUS, TECHNIQUES DERIVED FROM SUN BREATHING CAME ONE AFTER THE OTHER.
THE NUMBER OF MARKED ONES INCREASED, AND THE POWER OF THE DEMON SLAYERS ROSE.
BEFORE LONG, I MANIFESTED THE MARK.
A MARK IDENTICAL TO YORIICHI'S.


...I COULDN'T USE SUN BREATHING.
I COULD ONLY USE A DERIVATIVE LATER NAMED MOON BREATHING.
BUT IN THE END...


AS I LANGUISHED IN FRUS-TRATION...
I THOUGHT I WOULD CATCH UP TO YORIICHI IF I CONTINUED TRAINING.

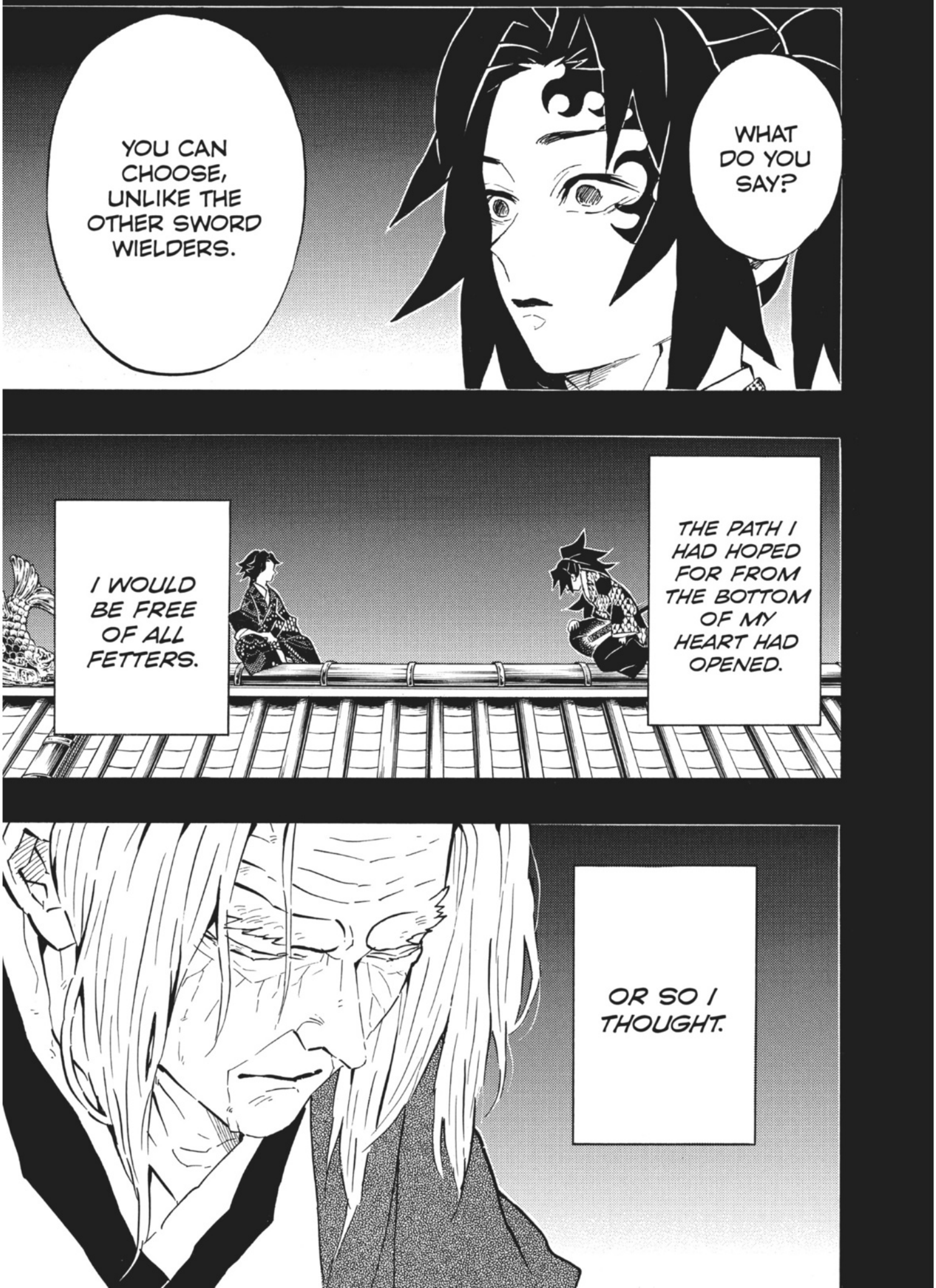
...THE MARKED ONES BEGAN DYING ONE AFTER THE OTHER.

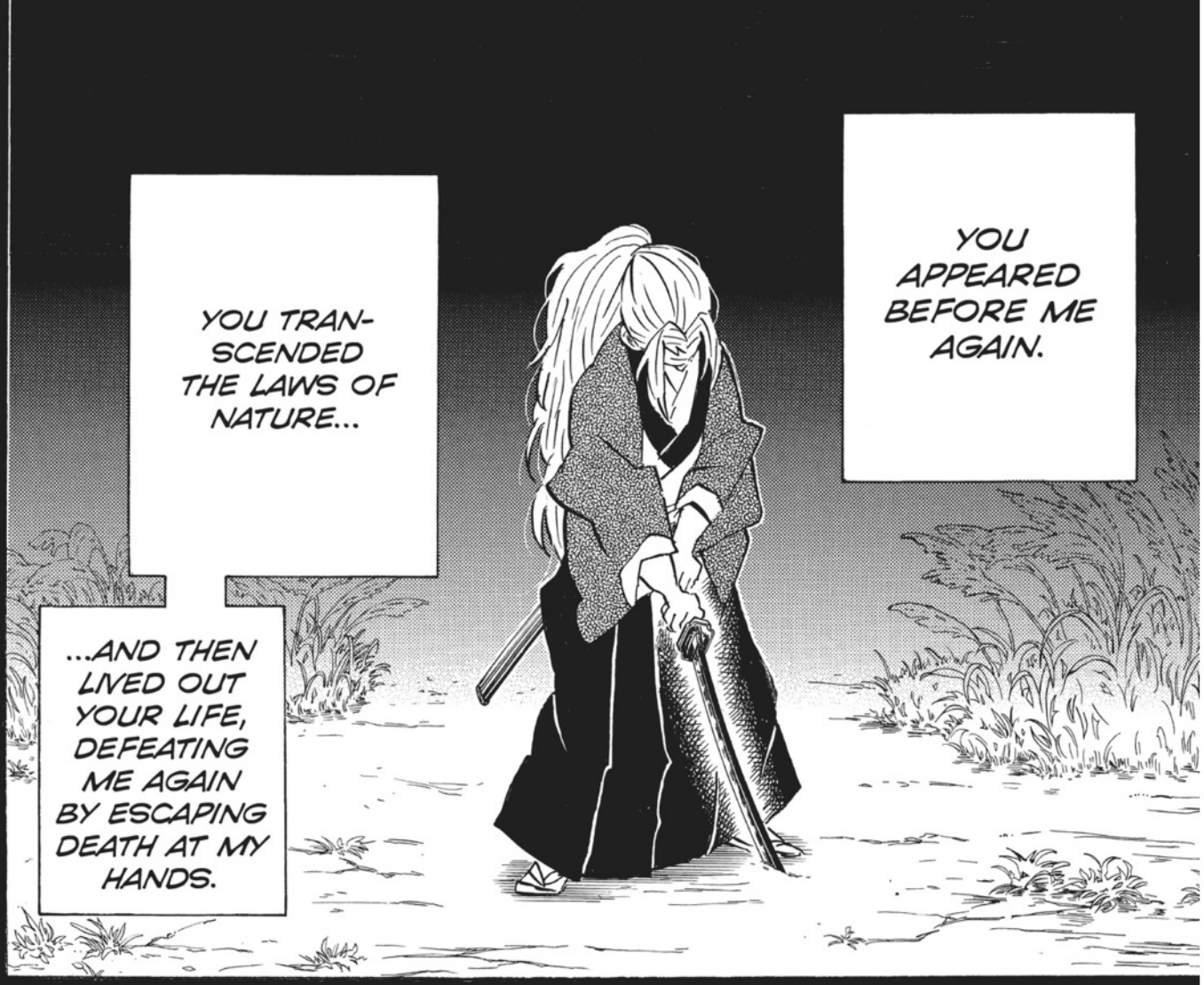
THE MARK MERELY GAVE YOU POWER IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIFE SPAN...
...SO THE GOLDEN ERA WOULD SOON END.

I DON'T HAVE TIME LEFT FOR THE REQUISITE TRAINING.
I HAVE NO FUTURE.

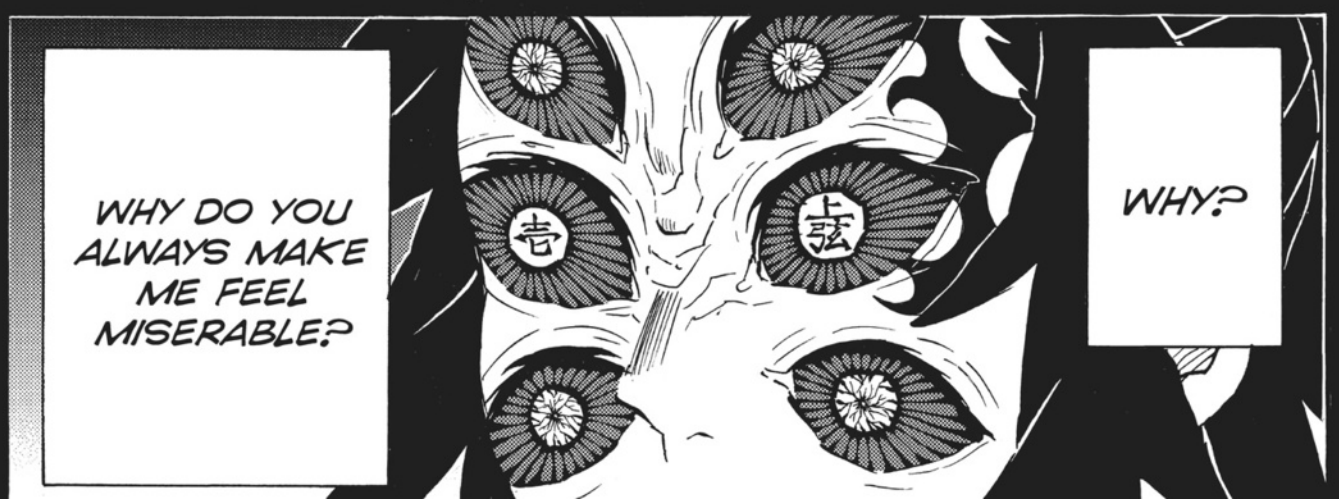
THEN YOU SHOULD BECOME A DEMON.

IF YOU BECOME A DEMON, YOU CAN LIVE FOREVER.
YOU WANT TO MASTER BREATHING TECHNIQUES.
AND I WANT TO MAKE A DEMON OUT OF A SWORDSMAN WHO CAN USE THEM.

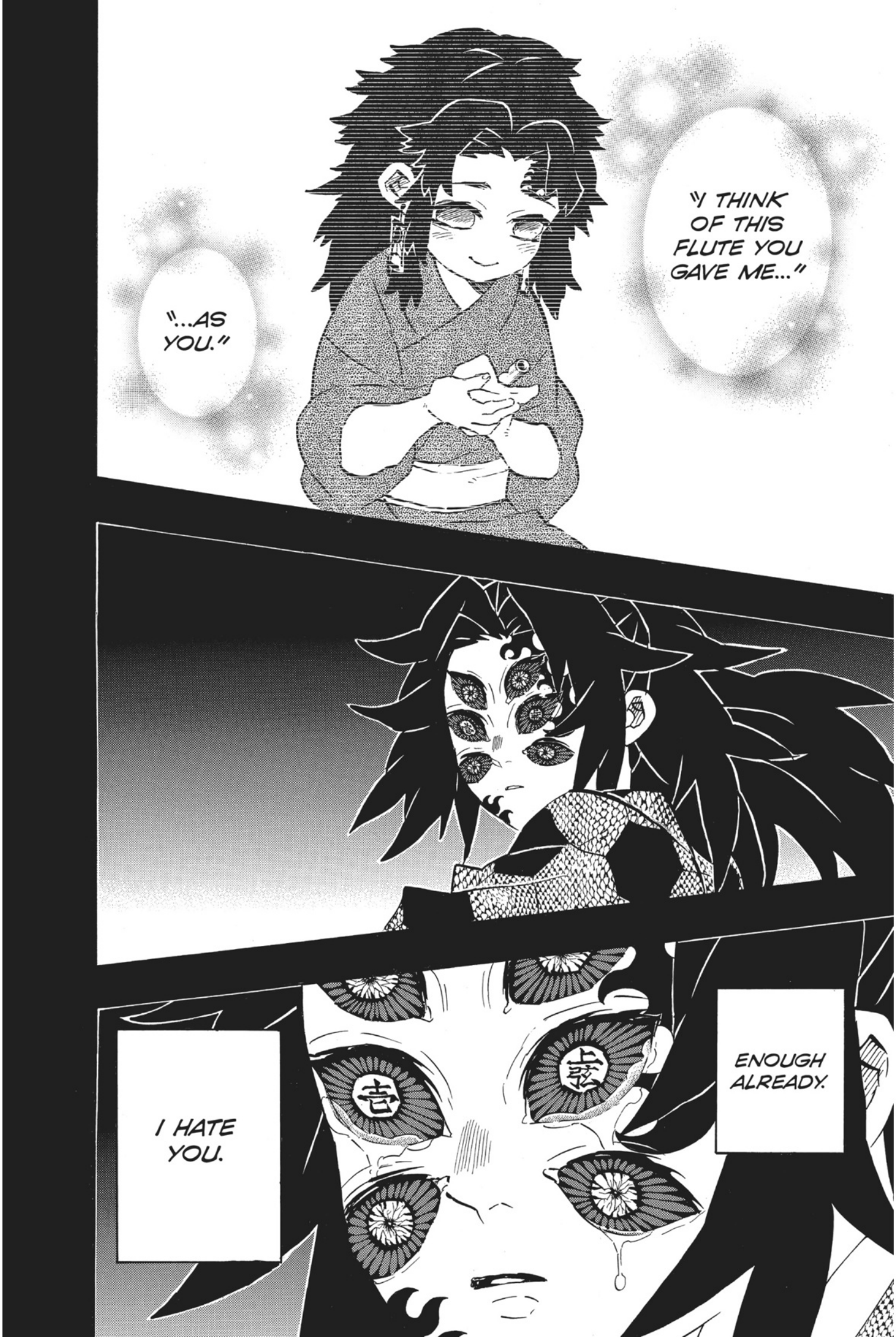

WHAT DO YOU SAY?
YOU CAN CHOOSE, UNLIKE THE OTHER SWORD WIELDERS.
THE PATH I HAD HOPED FOR FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART HAD OPENED.
I WOULD BE FREE OF ALL FETTERS.
OR SO I THOUGHT.


YOU APPEARED BEFORE ME AGAIN.
YOU TRANSCENDED THE LAWS OF NATURE...
...AND THEN LIVED OUT YOUR LIFE, DEFEATING ME AGAIN BY ESCAPING DEATH AT MY HANDS.

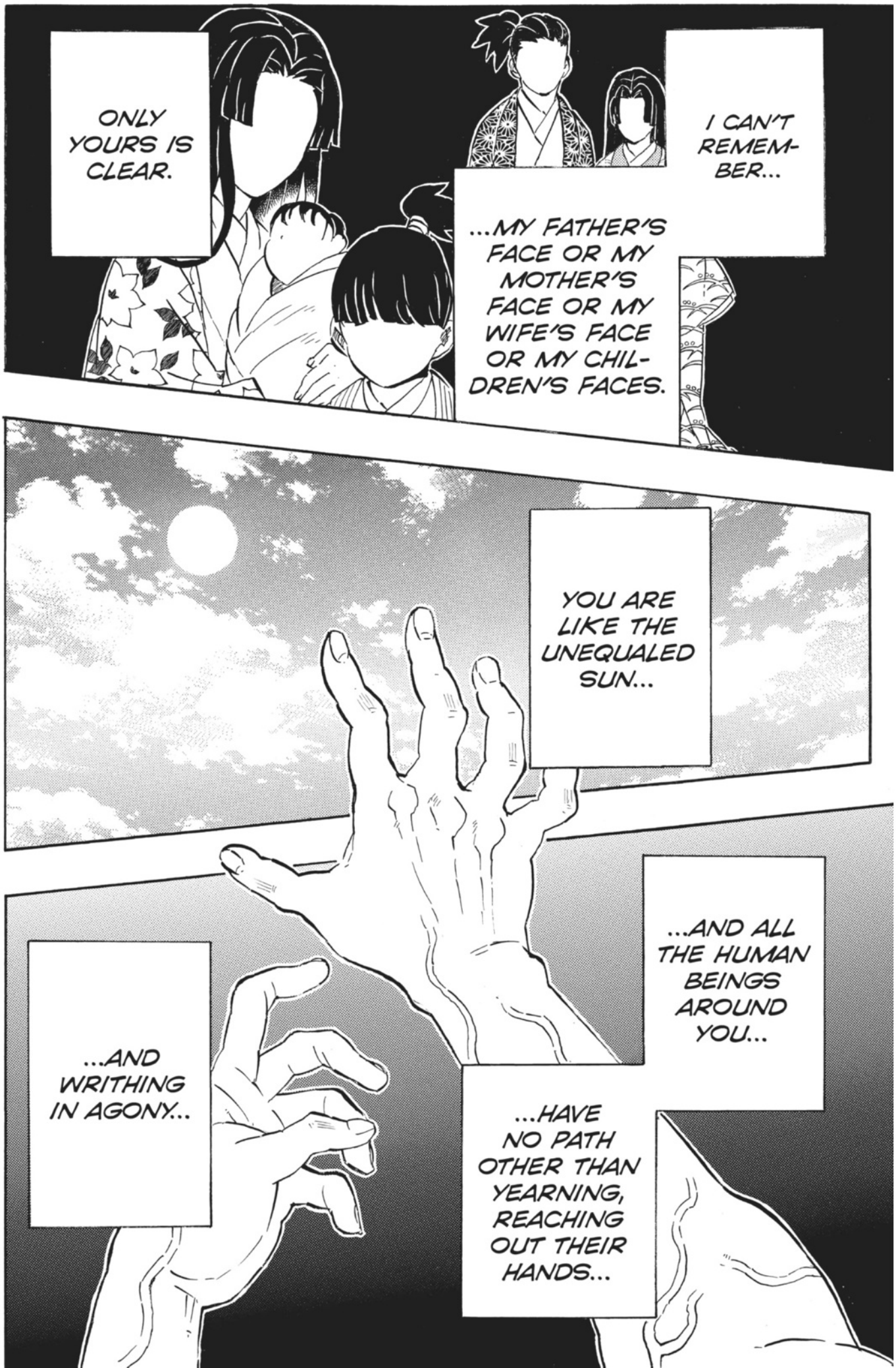
NO ONE... NOT EVEN LORD MUZAN...
...COULD DEFEAT YOU.
NO SINGLE PERSON WAS EVER ABLE TO HARM YOU.

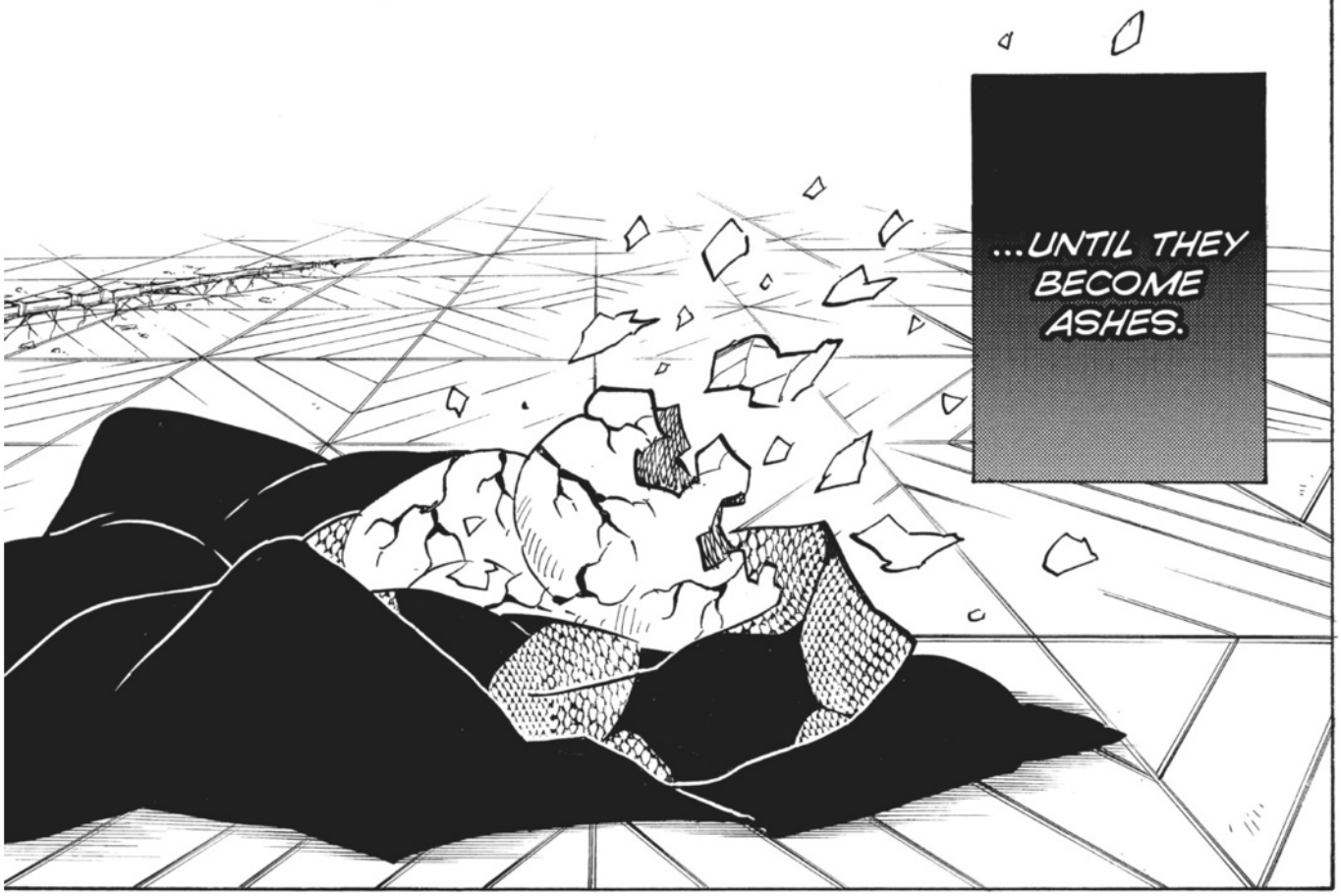

WHY?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS MAKE ME FEEL MISERABLE?
壱
上弦

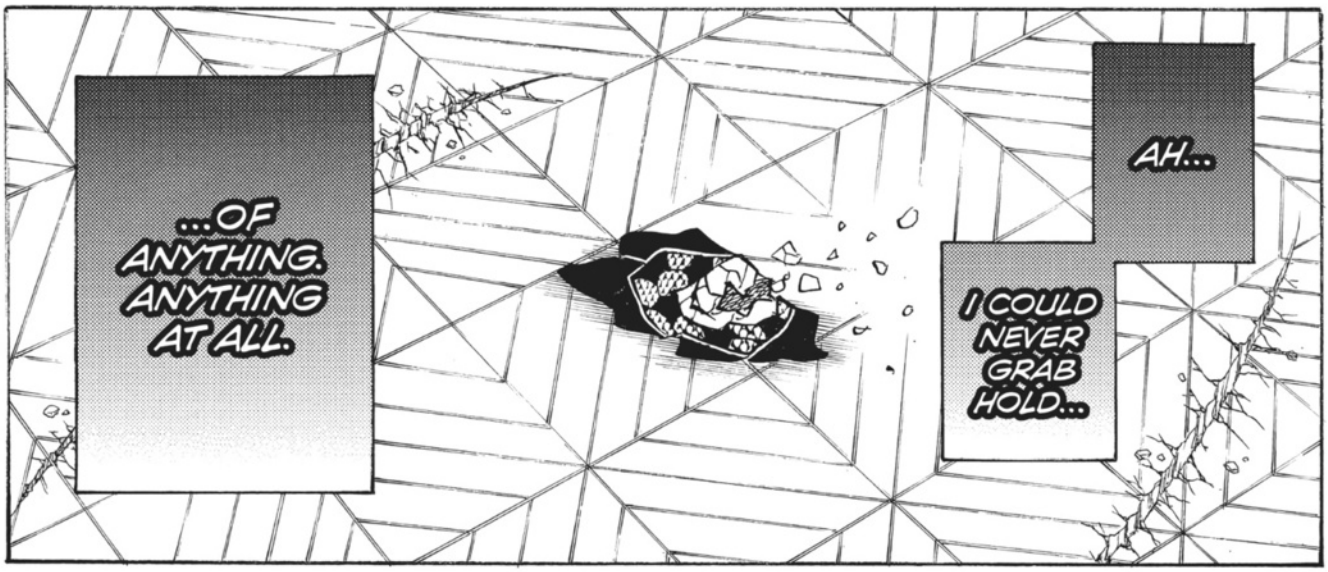
HATE!
HATE !!


〝I THINK OF THIS FLUTE YOU GAVE ME...〞
〝...AS YOU.〞
壱
上弦
ENOUGH ALREADY.
I HATE YOU.

JUST HEARING YOUR VOICE MAKES ME SO ANGRY MY HEAD HURTS.
JUST SEEING YOUR FACE MAKES ME SICK.
EVEN...
...AFTER LIVING HUNDREDS OF YEARS...
...WHAT I REMEMBER VIVIDLY IS YOUR FACE, THE THING I MOST WANT TO FORGET.


I CAN'T REMEMBER...
...MY FATHER'S FACE OR MY MOTHER'S FACE OR MY WIFE'S FACE OR MY CHILDREN'S FACES.
ONLY YOURS IS CLEAR.
YOU ARE LIKE THE UNEQUALED SUN...
...AND ALL THE HUMAN BEINGS AROUND YOU...
...HAVE NO PATH OTHER THAN YEARNING, REACHING OUT THEIR HANDS...
...AND WRITHING IN AGONY...

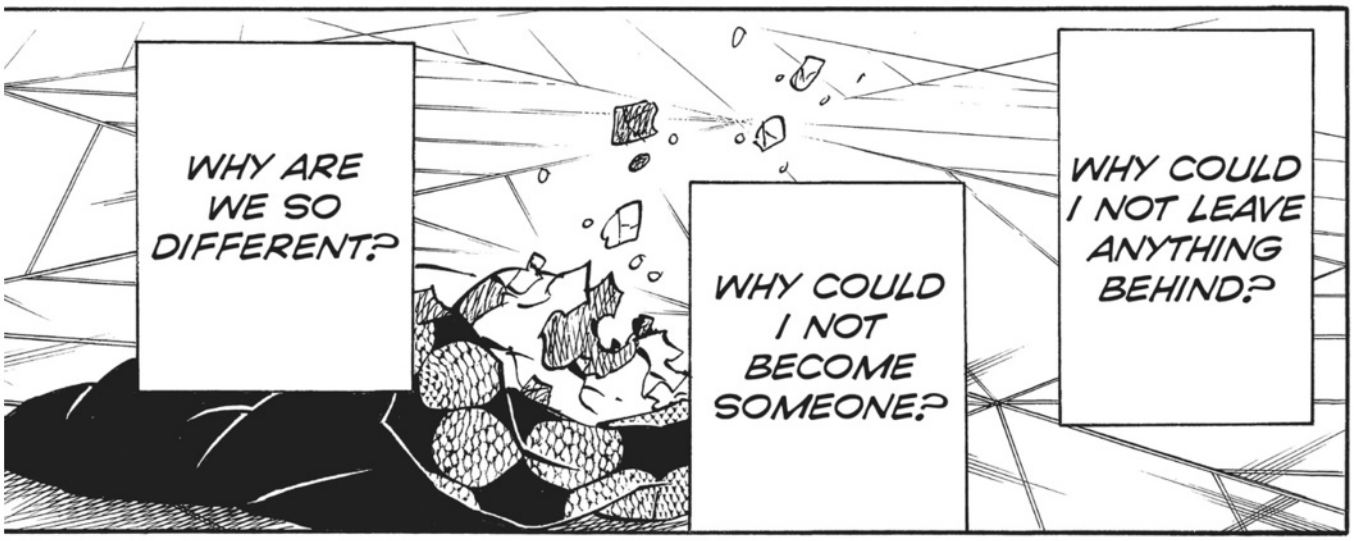

...UNTIL THEY BECOME ASHES.

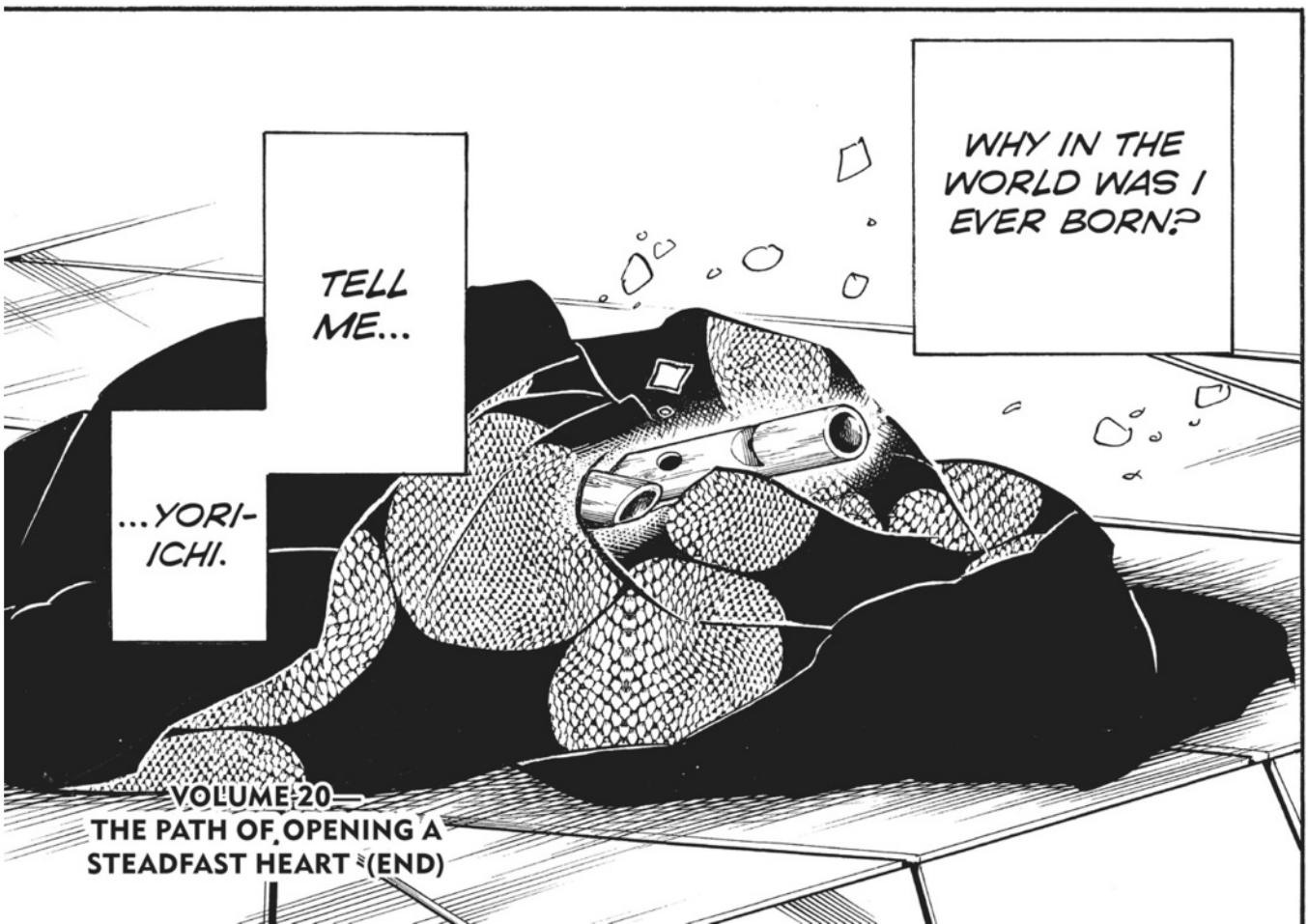

...OF ANYTHING. ANYTHING AT ALL.
AH...
I COULD NEVER GRAB HOLD...

I ABANDONED MY HUMANITY.
I ABANDONED MY HOME. I ABANDONED MY WIFE AND CHILDREN.

...AND ABANDONED BEING A SAMURAI.
I CUT DOWN MY DESCEN-DANTS...
...WASN'T ENOUGH.
BUT EVEN ALL THAT...
BUT I NEVER DID.
I COULD NOT SEE THE SAME WORLD THAT YOU DID.
YOU SAID THAT THOSE WHO MASTER THEIR PATHS ALL REACH THE SAME PLACE.

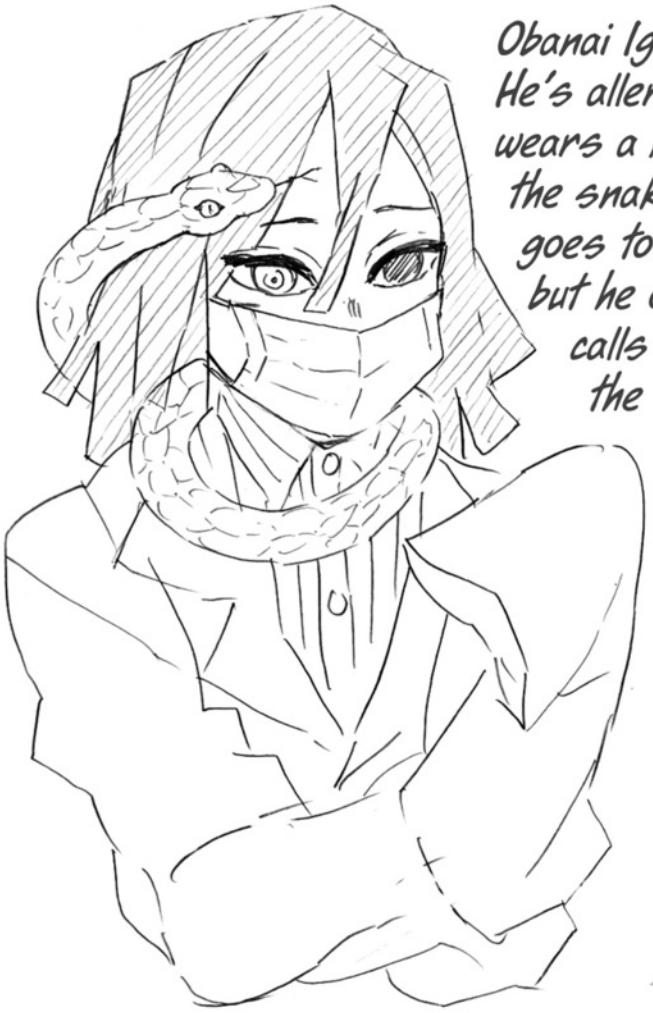
SO WHY DO YOUR BREATHING TECHNIQUES REMAIN?
...TO KILL THE SWORDSMEN WHO KNEW SUN BREATHING AND ITS FORMS.
AFTER YOUR DEATH, LORD MUZAN AND I MADE SURE...





VOLUME 20
THE PATH OF OPENING A STEADFAST HEART (END)

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL ☆ KIMETSU ACADEMY



Obanai Iguro. Chemistry Teacher
He's allergic to women, so he always wears a mask. People say he also wears the snake to keep women away. He often goes to the diner run by Aoi's family, but he only drinks tea. He frequently calls ahead to see if the girl with the braids is there. When students get failing grades, he strings them up and fires plastic water bottle rockets at them.

Gyomei Himejima. Civics teacher • Bamboo Shoot Class, Year 1. He's so muscular that people were scared of him at first, but he often had items with cats on them, which was incredibly cute. Everyone soon thought, "Huh? Is he a gentle guy who likes cats?" Students often call him "father" by accident.

Hakuji Soyama (18), Eboshi Class, Year 3. Koyuki Soyama (16), Hydrangea Class, Year 1. As children, they lived in neighboring houses and promised to marry each other. Their parents approved, so they got married. Their pet names for each other are Princess and Lord Hakuji. They're both in the Handicraft Club.

Hakuji will inherit Koyuki's family dojo.

He's a con man who performs marriages, among other things. He's notorious enough that there have been special programs about him on television. He has been involved in many scams, but there is never enough evidence to prosecute him. He spoke to a girl whose hair color gradually changed from green to pink and who later disappeared. An altercation between a man and woman that was overheard at the scene of the incident went like this: "I think you're lying!" "Guh!"